

K. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As a result of contact with various individuals and organizations and a review of historical inventories and literature, several historical and archaeological sites were identified within the Study Area. Also identified were broad areas of archaeological sensitivity. Sources contacted for information included the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), the New York State Museum Office of the Archaeologist (NYSM), the Town of Colonie Department of Engineering & Planning Services, the Town of Colonie Historian, the Village of Colonie Clerk, and the Albany County Planning Department.

1. Historical Considerations:

Two listings on the National Register of Historic Places are included wholly and partially within the Study Area. They are the Town of Colonie Multiple Resources Area and the Watervliet Shaker Historic District.

The Town of Colonie National Register Multiple Resources Area is a collection of historical resources which reflects the development of this area from 1720 to 1930. Also of significance is Colonie's (both Town and Village) location adjacent to the historically important City of Albany which influenced Colonie's development as a strong agricultural district and, later, contributed to its suburbanization. The interdependency of these two settlements together with Colonie's unique historical development are reflected in the architecture of Colonie. Structures which reflect the period architecture are listed in the Town of Colonie National Register Multiple Resources Area (see Appendix 3). The styles of architecture are New World Dutch architecture and vernacular forms of Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italian Villa, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, and 20th

century classical revival styles. These structures and their properties are tangible examples of 3 centuries of growth in the Hudson-Mohawk region.

The National Register listing of the Town of Colonie Multiple Resources Area includes 27 properties scattered throughout the Town of Colonie and 22 congregated structures known as the Menands Park Historic District. The nomination form (excluding the Menands Park portion which is not in the Study Area) is included in Appendix 3. Five of the Multiple Resources Area components are within the Study Area and are located on Exhibit II-K-1. Individual Building Structure Inventory forms for each of the five properties are included in Appendix 3.

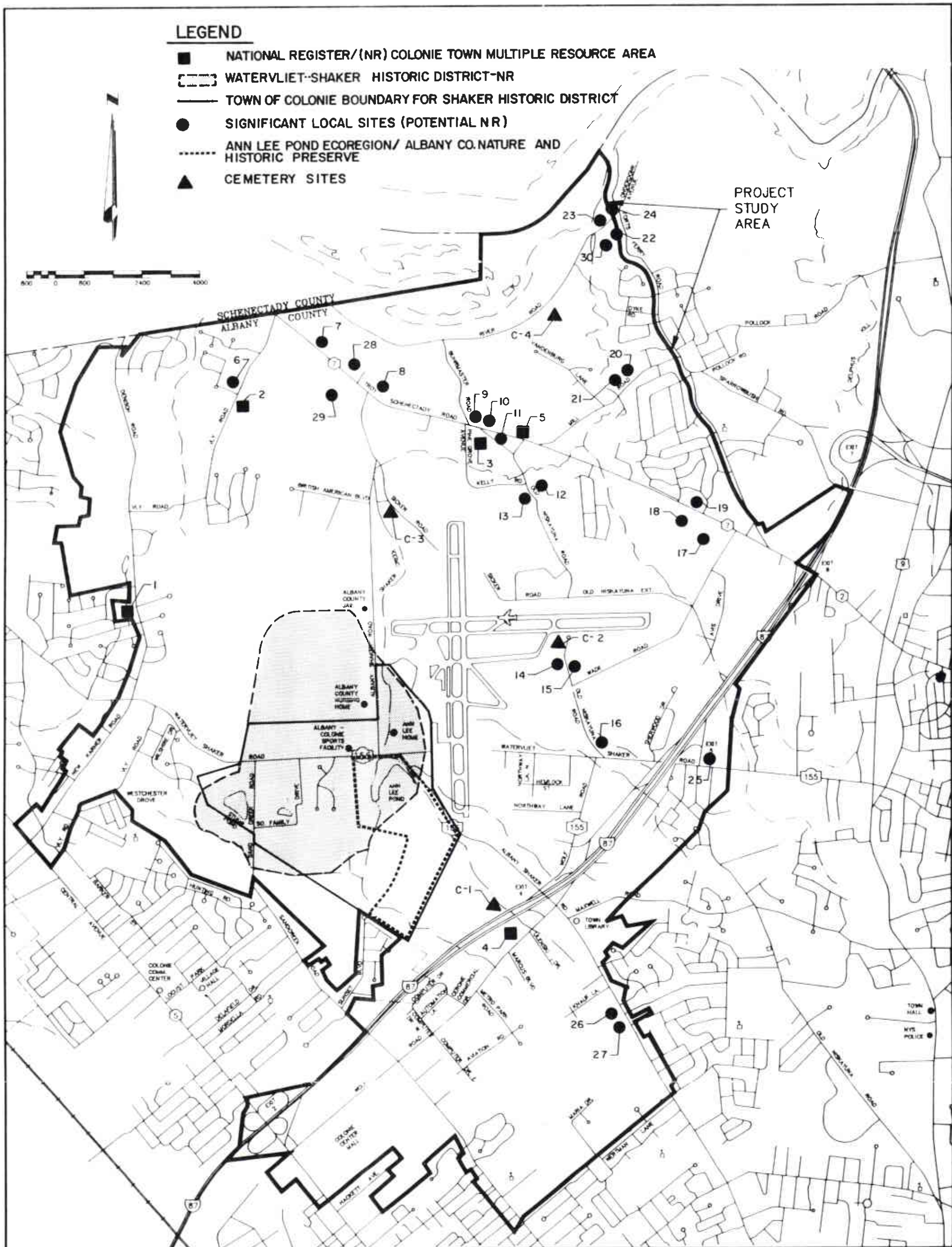
The Town of Colonie National Register Multiple Resources Area was delineated through a survey conducted between 1972 and 1980 by the Town of Colonie under the aegis of the Town Historian's Office through a 50 percent matching grant-in-aid from NYSOPRHP. Information was gathered, analyzed, and written by historical consultants John Harwood and David Barnett in the Historic Resources Survey of the Town of Colonie (1980).

The inventory resulted in a study which included: historical and architectural significance coding, assessment of potential for archaeological resources, and a map of over 300 properties in the Town of Colonie. Properties were coded "Most Significant," "Significant," and "Contributing." Family cemeteries were also identified in the survey and are considered historical resources.

The significance code utilized for the survey is commonly used for discussing the significance of National Register properties. The code reflects an assessment based on both known historical importance, architectural importance, and the integrity of the structure or resource. Integrity is based upon the amount of original construction and materials retained from its period or periods of

LEGEND

- NATIONAL REGISTER/(NR) COLONIE TOWN MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA
- WATERVLIET-SHAKER HISTORIC DISTRICT-NR
- TOWN OF COLONIE BOUNDARY FOR SHAKER HISTORIC DISTRICT
- SIGNIFICANT LOCAL SITES (POTENTIAL NR)
- ANN LEE POND ECOREGION/ ALBANY CO. NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE
- ▲ CEMETERY SITES



PROJECT
STUDY
AREA



**CLOUGH, HARBOUR
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HISTORIC RESOURCES MAP

EXHIBIT NO.

II - K - I

AIRPORT AREA GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

KEY TO
EXHIBIT II-K-1

AIRPORT STUDY AREA
HISTORIC RESOURCES LEGEND

MAP #	ADDRESS	CONSTRUCTION DATE
1	216 Vly Road, Schairer Dutch Barn	CA 1760-1790
2	379 Vly Road, Jedediah Strong House	CA 1795
3	1010 Troy-Schen. Rd, E. Hills, Jr. Farmhouse	CA 1785
4	216 Wolf Road, John Wolf Kemp (Camp) Farmhouse	CA 1780
5	957 Troy-Schenectady Road, Verdoy School	CA 1910
6	388 Vly Road	CA 1780, CA 1840
7	1171 Troy-Schenectady Road	1830-1850
8	1101 Troy-Schenectady Road	CA 1860
9	1017 Troy-Schenectady Road	1909
10	1011 Troy-Schenectady Road	1910
11	515 Old Niskayuna Road	CA 1863
12	477 Old Niskayuna Road	Main 1790 and E11 1760
13	474 Old Niskayuna Road	CA 1880
14	346 Old Niskayuna Road	1891
15	347 Old Niskayuna Road	Between 1865-1870
16	297 Old Niskayuna Road	Between 1880-1900
17	760 Troy-Schenectady Road	1865
18	784 Troy-Schenectady Road	1890
19	767 Troy-Schenectady Road	1909
20	64 Mill Road	1844
21	54 Mill Road	Main CA 1790, E11 CA 1820
22	194 Forts Ferry Road	CA 1848
23	4227 River Road	Between 1815-1835
24	214 Forts Ferry Road	1888
25	685 Watervliet Shaker Road	1881
26	588 Albany-Shaker Road	Between 1851-1854
27	574 Albany-Shaker Road	CA 1855
28	1142 Troy-Schenectady Road	CA 1820
29	1147 Troy-Schenectady Road	---
<u>CEMETERIES</u>		
	C-1	Kemp (Kempt, Camp) Family
	C-2	Methodist Church Cemetery
	C-3	Sicker Family
	C-4	Witbeck Family #1

Contributing structures are not shown. See Appendix 3
for address listing.

significance in history. Integrity may also be based on the physical context of the property. Physical context considers how much impact the spatial relationship to the land and surrounding structures has on the understanding of the history and/or architectural or period style of the historical structure or resource. The severity of any change in this relationship which has occurred over time is considered together with the importance that the physical context has to the historical resource. "Most Significant" is the highest rating a resource may be given; "Contributing" considers the resource as adding to the overall theme of the historical district, but the resource may be compromised in one of the areas of integrity or context, and/or lacking in historical information, and/or may be of lesser historical or architectural importance than "Significant".

Exhibit II-K-1 represents five individual properties identified in the 1972-1980 inventory which have since been included as part of the Town of Colonie National Register Multiple Resource Area and those properties considered "Significant" and "Most Significant" (see Appendix 3). Two additional properties considered "Contributing" in the 1972-1980 survey were included in the Town of Colonie Historic Sites Map published in 1989 by LUMAC and are therefore, included in this exhibit. Building-Structure Inventory Forms for properties listed on Exhibit II-K-1 are included, where available, in Appendix 3. Other properties located within the Study Area and identified in the 1972-1980 survey as "Contributing" are listed by address in Appendix 3 and are not included in Exhibit II-K-1 because they are too numerous.

Conversations with NYSOPRHP staff indicated that although only 27 properties plus the Menands Park Historic District were included in the National Register nomination, several of the remaining properties may be equally significant, but sufficient historical information was not available at that time to meet criteria for National Register status. Concurrently, Town Historian Jean

Olton confirmed that several of the properties listed in the survey as "Contributing" and not placed on the National Register were of local importance as historical resources. Confirmations for properties generally recognized as local historic resources which are included in Exhibit II-K-1 were cross checked with the 1977 Albany County Environmental Management Council, Scenic Historic Inventory, and the County of Albany Tri-centennial Historic and Scenic Sites Map (1983). Several of the sites are known under various names. All structures and cemeteries on both County maps were found to be in the 1972-1980 survey, and thus, are also on Exhibit II-K-1. Thirty-one historic properties plus the Watervliet Shaker Historic District are identified in Exhibit II-K-1. Archaeological resources identified from these and other sources will be discussed further in this section and are not necessarily shown on this exhibit.

The Watervliet Shaker Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It comprises approximately 770 acres. Most of the Historic District is located in the Town of Colonie, but a small portion of the district is included in the Village of Colonie in the Sand Creek Road area north of Hunting Road. A verbal description of the National Register boundary is included on the district nomination form in Appendix 3.

Boundaries of the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District are based on current or former sites of structures and lands of Shaker activities such as the orchards, burying ground, and mill pond. The Town of Colonie LUMAC boundary differs from the National Register boundary, and does not include the section of the National Register district within the Village of Colonie.

The significance of the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District is in the areas of architecture, commerce, invention, religion and

philosophy, and social/humanitarianism. The District includes 27 structures and known or potential archaeological resources pertaining to these areas of 19th and early 20th centuries American history.

The Historic District is the site of the first community of Shakers. It was settled in 1776 by Mother Ann Lee, foundress and spiritual leader of the Shaker religion, on lands rented from the heirs of Stephen Van Rensselaer. This utopian religious sect became identified with their progressive social tenets, architecture, inventions, domestic arts, furniture, agricultural science, and related commerce. Among numerous other accomplishments, the Shakers were noted for their superior production of brooms, bonnets, seeds, fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, tinware, herbs, and their innovative packaging and marketing of these goods. All of their products were sold to the "outside world" where they influenced methods of agriculture, commerce, and the domestic arts.

The Shakers, starting from this site known as Wisdom's Valley, eventually settled in 22 communities as far west as Kentucky, south to Florida, and north to Maine. Today, only two communities of practicing Shakers exist, and only six other community sites have museums and/or restored structures which, like the Watervliet Shaker site, attract scholars and tourists from local, national, and international audiences.

The National Register nomination form includes description of the District and information on its historical significance. This form and individual Building Structure Inventory forms are included within Appendix 3.

The Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District retains three of the original four family building clusters in a campus type setting which is typical of the Shaker pattern of land use. (In 1926, most of the structures of the fourth family building cluster, known as the North Family were destroyed by fire

and eventually became the site of the Shaker Ridge County Club). The extant clustered housing, utility, and agricultural buildings still retain a moderate amount of open space surrounding them. A critical element of most National Register listings is the continuing existence of a historical environmental context. As noted in the 1973 National Register nomination, "With the exception of the airport at the northeast corner and a few scattered modern structures, the Shaker buildings, cemetery, and mill pond are still within their historical environment. The open spaces between "families" have a crucial visual impact on the remaining structures and valuable archaeological sites are scattered throughout."

The Shaker buildings are 1 to 3 1/2-story structures with gabled roofs. Most of the structures do not exceed 40 feet in height. The predominant construction material is brick although several of the structures are frame and clapboard construction. The District includes a Shaker cemetery where Mother Ann Lee is buried. It also includes a wooded area which surrounds Stump Pond, the former Shaker ice pond.

Existing conditions of several of the 22 structures show early to later stages of deterioration of historical elements. Based on field observations, existing conditions within the overall district show areas of encroachment on the open space or non-sensitive siting and landscape screening such as: visible signs of high use of the entry and parking lot to the saw and grist mill pond site (Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve), a number of unrelated signs (such as signs for businesses on Airline Drive and facilities such as Ann Lee Home and Heritage Park Sports Complex), and a lack of appropriate signs to establish a sense of place within the entire Historic District.

The existing Town zoning for the majority of the Watervliet Shaker Historic District, is "Undeveloped" which is equivalent to a "Business E-1"

District, allowing for a variety of business and retail uses. As per Bulk Regulations (Zoning, Section 190-21, Code of the Town of Colonie, Article V A.(3), the maximum height allowed within the Undeveloped zone is 75 feet. A portion of the land just west of Sand Creek Road, in the vicinity of Stump Pond is zoned for single family residential and allows for a maximum building height of 40 feet, with a minimum lot frontage of 100 feet. The portion of the Historic District located within the Village of Colonie is zoned Residential B which allows for multi-family residences with a maximum building height of 80 feet or less and a density of 5 units per acre.

The Future Land Use Plan developed by LUMAC in 1988 recommended that lands that are part of the Watervliet Shaker Historic District be set aside for specific uses. This includes: a Land Conservation District for the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve; a Business E-2 District for the portion of the existing Undeveloped District which extends north from the Village boundary to Route 155 and bounded by South Family Drive to the west and Allegheny Drive to the east; the preservation of Stump Pond through public acquisition or suitable conservation easements; careful evaluation of modifications proposed in the existing use of large tracts of land, privately or institutionally owned (e.g., Albany-Colonie Sports Facility or Ann Lee Home) for compatibility with the Airport and other features in the area; and, the Watervliet Shaker Historic District should be included within a local "Historic District". The development of land within the Historic District, in accordance with the above LUMAC land use policies, would have an impact on the integrity of the District. These impacts and mitigation measures are discussed later in this section.

Much of the area surrounding the Ann Lee Pond is within a NYSDEC regulated wetland. The presence of regulated wetlands affords certain protection for some of the open space within the District. Approximately 17 percent of the

Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District is located within the Albany County Nature and Historic Preserve (see Exhibit II-K-1). Created by the County Legislature in 1976, the intent of the Albany County Nature and Historic Preserve law is to preserve sensitive environmental areas and historical resources within the County. Currently, the preserve is managed by the Albany County Department of Public Works. As a result, those portions of the Historic District included within the Albany County Nature and Historic Preserve are likely to remain as open space.

Existing land use in the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District includes institutional (nursing home, cemetery, sports facility), agricultural, office, residential, and preserve land. The majority of the historical structures are held for private residential, institutional, and agricultural uses.

2. Archaeological Considerations:

According to the NYSM and a map provided by NYSOPRHP, the entire Study Area is considered a highly sensitive archaeological area (see Appendix 3). Information obtained from the NYSM includes known archaeological sites which are listed on a topographic map. The information is graphically shown by a one-half mile diameter circle drawn on a 1:24,000 scale map which indicates the presence of a site within the circle. Each circle is numbered. This map is not available for publication in order to protect the sites from being disturbed which would result in a loss of the resource and the information that the resource could yield to present and future generations. Approximately 11 sites were identified within or adjacent to the Study Area and are listed with NYSM number and information in Appendix 3. The NYSM also provided a one page form which rates the entire area as archaeologically sensitive (see Sensitivity Report in Appendix 3). The NYSOPRHP provided a 1:250,000 scale map of New York State showing known sensitive

archaeological sites. The map is commonly known as the "circles and squares" map. The squares denote all considered sensitive by the NYSOPRHP archaeological sites and the circles denote all sensitive NYSM sites. Both circles and squares are approximately equivalent to one square mile. Where circles and squares are so numerous as to overlap, a dot pattern is used to delineate the area in question. A portion of the "circles and squares" map which contains the Study Area is included within Appendix 3.

The majority of the 11 NYSM sites are in the northern portion of the Study Area along the Mohawk River. Some sites are also located just south of the Airport. Several prehistoric artifacts have been found throughout the Study Area as indicated on NYSOPRHP Building Structure Inventory forms. Additionally, as indicated as criteria on the NYSM Sensitivity Form, areas including streams, swamps and rock faces also have a higher than average probability of producing prehistoric cultural materials. There are several such streams and swamps within the Study Area. (see Maps, Appendix 3).

A 1977 Albany County Environmental Management Council study also discusses the site of a former Buhrmaster house along the Mohawk River which was inundated during the flooding from the Erie Canal in the early 1900s. Additionally, the historical and archaeological resources along the Mohawk River may be associated with the Erie Canal and/or the Shaker community. As discussed earlier, contributing historic sites within the Watervliet Shaker Historic District contribute to the archaeological sensitivity of the area. Properties with existing historical structures were also assessed for their archaeological potential in the Colonie Historic Resources Building Structure Inventory Form. The assessment was based on existing research and factors such as land areas which appeared undisturbed by later construction. A further explanation of the inventory methodology and these archaeological assessments can be found in Appendix 3.

Areas of potential archaeological sensitivity include Former sites and lands of the Shakers, sites identified as structures, but are no longer standing (DeBeers Map), and early roads and streams within the Study Area. Maps delineating these areas are included in Appendix 3.

Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

1. Historical Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The impacts to the Watervliet Shaker Historic District which will result from the Cumulative Growth Scenario are:

- o potential loss of historical structures due to development pressures for more intensive use of the land (Presently historical structures within the district consist of 1 to 3 1/2-story buildings used for residential, institutional, and agricultural purposes; however, the district is primarily zoned for office and retail purposes with maximum building height of up to 75 feet);
- o loss of physical context of historical structures and the historic district as a whole due to the transformation of orchard, meadow, and woodlands into developed areas for residential, commercial, or transportation related uses; and
- o potential overuse of existing open space such as the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve due to the loss of adjacent undeveloped areas.

One of the first steps that the Town and Village of Colonie and Albany County should consider to preserve historical and archaeological resources is to refine the boundaries of the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District. The current Watervliet Shaker National Register District boundary does not appear

to be based on an existing property survey on tax mapping. Future measurements undertaken by the Town, Village, or County to protect the District or comply with Federal or State regulations could be complicated if the boundary is not clearly defined. The NYOPRHP should be able to lend technical assistance to clarify the District boundary.

The Town of Colonie should also consider the adoption of a local historic preservation ordinance which should include the creation of a Town preservation commission as recommended by LUMAC. The new preservation commission could then draft appropriate regulations to control future land use and develop architectural standards to preserve the Watervliet Shaker Historic District.

When reviewing future development proposals, the Town preservation commission should first consider the potential to preserve open space on a particular site. This would encourage developers to explore the feasibility of alternatives such as cluster type development. Secondly, the commission should strictly enforce architectural controls which would require all new construction to use modern building materials which relate to the materials, scale, rhythm and roof form of adjacent Shaker structures. Review of all proposed development in this manner would ensure the construction of compatible development within the Historic District.

Several of the recommendations made in the past for preservation of the Watervliet Shaker Historic District remain pertinent today. Recommendations for acquisition, preservation, and stabilization of the South Family site were made in the 1973 and 1977 studies by Peter Wolf for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Shaker Central Trust Fund, Historical Society of the Town of Colonie and the Town of Colonie. A similar plan for a recreation historic district was presented in the conclusion to Recapturing Wisdom Valley (Dorothy Filley, Albany Institute of History and Art 1975).

An entity such as an historic preservation commission, working in conjunction with the private sector, would provide a vehicle for protection of existing structures and the eventual acquisition of critical properties. The establishment of a local historic preservation ordinance would also enable local government and/or non-profit entities to participate in state or federal programs which could be tapped to provide funds to support preservation activities within the Historic Districts. One such program is the New York State Urban Cultural Park (UCP) Program.

The New York State UCP Program currently provides grant assistance to 14 state designated "urban cultural parks" located across New York State. The Town of Colonie has already joined the Hudson-Mohawk Urban Cultural Park Commission, and after certain revisions are made to this UCP's management plan, the Town will be eligible for State funding for preservation activities.

The Town of Colonie must designate which historical resources are to be included within the Hudson-Mohawk UCP boundary. The boundary limits are subject to the approval of New York State and only projects within these limits are eligible for State UCP funding. The NYSOPRHP administers this program and provides partial funding for historic preservation projects and programs on an annual basis.

Another program for which the Town and Village of Colonie could be eligible is the Certified Local Government Program which is administered by the NYSOPRHP. Municipalities which adopt a state approved local historic preservation ordinance to protect historic resources are eligible to become "Certified". Certified local governments can then apply for small grants to be used for administration, planning, and technical assistance associated with protected properties.

Beyond protection through local ordinance, acquisition or preservation of open space within the District is also another option to be considered. Specific areas which would be appropriate include the property around the South Family Shaker structures, the West Family Shaker structures, and Stump Pond. (Ongoing preservation of open space around Ann Lee Pond is presumed under continued County ownership.)

Acquisition of a greenbelt through the Watervliet Shaker Historic District from Ann Lee Pond to Stump Pond and acquisition of Stump Pond has been recommended by the LUMAC committee as a means to preserve open space. The acquisition of this land would represent an important first step in preserving the open spaces necessary to keep the historic district intact with regard to its physical context.

Another method to preserve Stump Pond and buffer surrounding land areas is through the use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR). This system to regulate land use allows a property owner to give up some or all of their rights to develop a certain parcel. In return, they are permitted to develop another parcel of property at a higher density than permitted by existing zoning or sell those development rights to another party. TDRs leave properties in private ownership but can prevent construction and the resulting loss of open space from occurring within a historic district.

The use of conservation easements may also be an option for preserving the open space around Stump Pond and the West Family and South Family groups of structures. Through the acquisition of this type of easement, a municipality could reduce the intensity of development within a historic district. This option, in combination with others previously mentioned, could control development so that it occurs in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

Another mitigation measure to reduce impacts on the Watervliet Shaker Historic District would be to limit the height of any new structures within or adjacent to the Historic District to a maximum of 40 feet. Additionally new construction should take into consideration the campus like arrangement of the Shaker buildings and their relationship to the surrounding non-formalized landscape. Orchard type plantings, free form meadow, wildflower gardens, and bermed and screened parking lots should be considered along with any proposed site improvements in or adjacent to the historic district.

As usage of the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve increases, safe access, increased need for parking, signage and protection of open space will become a more complex management problem for Albany County and will have a direct impact on the visual quality of the Historic District.

Historic structures within the County-owned Ann Lee Home complex should also be given special attention due to the significant role they play in the interpretation of the Watervliet Shaker Historic District. The County should consider establishing an aggressive exterior maintenance schedule to ensure the long-term protection of the structures and should encourage the continued interpretation of the facilities in cooperation with the Shaker Heritage Society. Exterior repair and maintenance of the historical structures should be undertaken in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Structures. Through these measures and combined with the continued ownership by Albany County, the integrity of the historic district can be greatly enhanced.

There are a number of individual historical structures and properties which are distributed throughout the Study Area (see Exhibit II-K-1). Most of these structures are used for residential purposes and are privately owned. The majority of these structures are listed on the Town of Colonie National

Register Multiple Resource Area Historic District. To ensure the continued preservation of these historical resources, the Town of Colonie may wish to incorporate these sites under the jurisdiction of the proposed local preservation ordinance discussed earlier in this section. The same regulations and standards suggested earlier for inclusion in the preservation ordinance should also apply to proposed improvements on these individual sites.

In addition to the enactment of a local preservation ordinance, the Town of Colonie should provide information on tax credits which are available for income producing historical properties. National Register income producing properties which are substantially rehabilitated in conformance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards may be eligible for a 20 percent tax credit as established under the National 1986 Tax Reform Act. In those areas where development pressures may threaten the continued existence of National Register structures, this incentive can often provide owners with a viable alternative to demolition and new construction.

2. Archaeological Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

As earlier noted, the New York State Museum has determined that portions of the Study Area are located within a highly sensitive archaeological area with known prehistoric and historic sites. It is important to also note that this area has not been subjected to systematic archaeological survey and has a higher than average probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data.

A site-specific Stage 1A, and if necessary Stage 1B, Cultural Resources Survey, conducted by a professional archaeologist, should be required for all development proposals within the Study Area. If cultural resources are found as a result of the above mentioned surveys, mitigation measures are normally outlined as part of the Stage 1B report. These measures may include, but are not limited to,

avoiding construction activities in the affected area of the site or filling the affected area to limit the potential for future disturbance. Depending on the type and extent of cultural resources found, the archaeologist who prepares the Stage 1A/1B Cultural Resources Survey may recommend a Stage 2 Archaeological Study which involves a dig and includes a much more detailed evaluation of the site than the 1B survey. Information regarding Major Stages of Cultural Resources Investigation as prepared by NYSOPRHP is included at the end of Appendix 3.

To assure the adequate protection of archaeological resources, the Town and Village should consider the establishment of an overlay district within the Study Area. The overlay district should require, at a minimum, a Stage 1A Literature Search and Sensitivity Study to be conducted by a professional archaeologist. Recommendations contained within the Stage 1A report should be used as a basis for further action by the Town and/or Village. An archaeological overlay district could be incorporated into any future historic preservation ordinance.

In the case of the Village, archeological studies have already been conducted as part of the Shaker Run Apartments development proposal. As a result, lands within the Village of Colonie would not be included in this overlay district.

3. Exit 3 Proposal:

As discussed in section II,H, Transportation, the need for an Exit 3 off I-87 is necessary to provide adequate future access to the Albany County Airport and improve north-south access through the Study Area. It is further recognized that a new highway through the Watervliet Shaker Historic District will have a substantial impact on historical and archaeological resources. As a result,

two options for the proposed Exit 3 interchange have been developed. The impacts to historical and archaeological resources for both transportation options are discussed below.

a. Option 1 Roadway Alignment

The construction of I-87 Exit 3, connecting Wolf Road directly to Route 7, will provide additional north-south access through the heart of the Study Area and will accommodate projected traffic growth along Albany Shaker Road and Exit 4 of I-87. This new roadway is intended to serve traffic from Wolf Road and anticipated development west of Albany Shaker Road and, provide a better link between the airport and I-87. Under this option, it is anticipated that Exit 3 will be a full-diamond interchange while the new roadway will be constructed to major arterial standards providing two lanes in each direction with a flush median, and with access to adjacent development provided only at limited well-designated intersections.

Exhibit II-H-4 in the Transportation Section of this FGEIS illustrates the concept of this option. Although the exact alignment cannot be determined at this preliminary stage, it is anticipated this new road will extend northward from Metro Park Road, meet Watervliet Shaker Road at a grade separated interchange, intersect with Airport Access Road and British American Boulevard and end at Route 7 with another grade separated interchange; total distance covering about 4 miles.

b. Option 1 Impacts and Mitigations

The first impact to consider with this Option is that the entire area is highly archaeologically sensitive for both prehistorical and historical resources. In fact, the first segment of Option 1 bisects the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District in a north-south direction. An archaeological

reconnaissance level survey should be conducted for the length of Option 1 and a mitigation proposal outlined. If resources are found, mitigation may consist of realignment of the roadway, avoidance of any ground disturbance (e.g., cuts), or implementation of a full-scale archaeological dig.

Other impacts associated with this option concern historical resources. These are discussed in order of location, not in order of magnitude.

The proposed exit ramps from I-87 which will be required on the west side of I-87 will be close to a 19th century family cemetery. The proposed alignment should avoid this cemetery (see Exhibit II-K-1, Number C-1).

As mentioned previously in this section, any impact on the open space, particularly within the Watervliet Shaker National Register Historic District, will impact on the setting of the structures within the Historic District and will significantly impact the open space/agricultural setting of the Shaker community. Mitigation measures which may be considered would be a linear berm parallel to the proposed roadway to visually screen all traffic. However, the height of the berms necessary to conceal the highway would probably eliminate any distant views across existing open fields. A below grade roadway alignment may help to mitigate the loss of open space views.

The road alignment will impact on short and mid-range views to and from the South Family structures. The structures will also be subject to a potential decrease in air quality and increase in vibration levels. The intensive highway use is incompatible with the existing use of the South Family structures. These impacts will render the structures less desirable in their present agricultural and residential use. Since the structures' significance is based on these uses, the value of this historical resource could potentially decrease. Possible mitigation measures might include:

- o carefully designed berms and landscaping to screen the highway from view (Consideration should be given to retaining distant views across open fields as much as possible);
- o maintaining roadway alignments as far from the historic structures as possible;
- o preservation of historic development patterns (i.e., building layout and street patterns); and
- o acquisition of historical properties along South Family Drive to assure the long-term protection of properties which may no longer be economically viable due to their proximity to the proposed roadway.

c. Option 2 Roadway Alignment

As stated in Section II,H, Transportation, the Option 2 roadway alignment addresses future traffic demands on Study Area highways while attempting to minimize potential impacts on wetlands and the Watervliet Shaker Historic District. Major components of this Option for Exit 3 of I-87 include a: new north-south arterial connecting Watervliet Shaker Road to Route 7, tunnel constructed under runway 1-19 (the north-south runway) of the Albany County Airport to improve traffic conditions along Watervliet Shaker Road, more direct access to I-87 from Albany Shaker Road, and partial diamond Exit 3 interchange to serve Wolf Road. Exhibit II-H-5 in the Transportation Section illustrates the proposed improvements under this option.

d. Option 2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Portions of this proposed roadway alignment are located within a highly sensitive archaeological area. As such, the mitigation measures to protect these resources would be similar to those discussed under Option 1.

The northernmost alignment of the northbound on ramp to I-87 is located near the John Wolf Kemp Farmhouse on Wolf Road (see Figure II-K-1, Number 4, National Register Site). The ramp should avoid disturbing the house and grounds and should leave as much of a landscape buffer as possible. Landscaping and berms should be used to reduce the view of traffic on this ramp from the farmhouse property.

The new interchange between I-87 and Albany Shaker Road does not appear to impact upon any above ground historical resources. The new arterial between Watervliet Shaker Road and Route 7, which is nearly identical to improvements suggested under Option 1, has the same potential to impact upon the existing orchard, the Shaker structures within the Ann Lee Home Complex along Albany Shaker Road, and the overall setting including historical development patterns of the community and the sites of the Church Family structures. Therefore, impacts and mitigation suggested under Option 1 would also apply to this option.

Finally, the improvements to Route 155, in the vicinity of Old Niskayuna Road, have the potential to impact on the property at 685 Watervliet Shaker Road (See Figure II-K-1, No. 25). As a result, all attempts to avoid the house and grounds should be encouraged. Landscape buffers should be utilized to mitigate any impacts which these improvements might have on the physical setting of the structure.

Clearly, both Option 1 and 2 for the proposed Exit 3 will directly impact on historical and archaeological resources. However, Option 1, by bisecting the Watervliet Shaker Historic District, will have a more significant impact on these resources and will be more difficult to mitigate. Therefore, the costs associated with both roadway options will have to be weighed against the relative impacts to historical and archaeological resources. Furthermore, the overall effectiveness of suggested mitigation measures will also have to be fully considered.