

C. SAVE THE PINE BUSH INC.

The following comments are taken from a letter dated April 25, 1996 from John Wolcott of Save the Pine Bush, Inc. A copy of the letter is provided in Appendix I.

1. Comment:

As another argument against the tax base claim, I wish to ask why this can't be alleviated if regionalization picks up? Does not regionalization share the cost of services thereby reducing them? Why don't you mention this as at least a possible alternative to throwing away natural and cultural resources. As for commercial and industrial zoning; aren't you concerned about the negative effects that excessive commercial development in Colonie is already having on bordering cities?

Response:

In regards to regionalization, the Town of Colonie has a policy of developing intermunicipal agreements with adjoining municipalities where practical. The Town of Colonie currently has an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Niskayuna for sewer service. In the future, the Town of Colonie may develop similar agreements for any municipal services with neighboring municipalities. These intermunicipal agreements can reduce the cost of service to each town because the services are shared.

Furthermore, one of the aspects discussed by the State Commission on Regionalization was establishment of a "Capital Region Conservancy". The conservancy would be a quasi-government entity or a not-for-profit agency established for the purpose of protecting or preserving the unique resources of the area. While this type of program would be beneficial to the region, its implementation does not appear likely in the near future.

In reference to the statement "negative effects that excessive commercial in Colonie is already having on bordering cities", development within the Town of Colonie can have a positive impact on the neighboring communities by encouraging new business that support or compliment this development and encourage people to relocate to the region to find employment.

2. Comment:

I am very concerned about your will and intention to do anything at all about protecting cultural resources. The following are some features that I contributed to the 1991 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Pine Bush by Hartgen Associates

and which you either omit or incorrectly describe. The numbers are from the Hartgen Report of 1991, map 4.

#37 The Traux Family cemetery

#40 The Miller's house opposite Dick Groot's sawmill pond on the east side of Morris Road. This is not completely covered by modern materials and may be difficult to find. This may be true of other older buildings in the area. A more careful survey is needed.

#42 "Cannon Hill" This small dune at Morris and Cordell is the point of beginning of the 1769 Truax lease metes and bounds description. It is one of the few named natural features of the Colonial Period in your study area. By the way; it seems that you want to extend Cordell Road at this point. This is a very bad idea for this and other reasons; cutting through wetlands, further cutting off a Karner Blue butterfly colony from the rest of the Pine Bush, and last but not least, encouraging more development in the Pine Bush.

#52 A cut and finished sandstone boundary marker with carefully incised inscription on both sides. The north side has "ALBANY 1800," the south side has "MANOR." This was one of a series placed in 1800 by the City of Albany to mark out the boundaries between Albany and the Manor of Rensselaerwyck after years of dispute. Then, then, north line of Albany is now the boundary between Colonie and Guilderland.

#38 Cellar hole of the Issac Jacobse Traux tavern. Although it is listed by you on Table II K-2 as a nineteenth century tavern, it is in fact the foundation of a eighteen century farm house and tavern. The Rensselaerwyck lease for the property is dated 1769, but it was built earlier since it appears on the 1767 Rensselaerwyck map. It is mentioned in the Albany Committee of Safety minutes during the Revolution, as well as in General Washington's expense accounts from the same period.

#39 Site of Dirck Groot's sawmill. You have this on Table II K-2 as grist mill which is was but not until the nineteenth century. The Rensselaerwyck lease for the property is dated 1769 but the saw mill was built earlier, since it appears on a map of 1761. This site is important to the history of forest industries in this area. The mill pond is still there, but dried up. The dam should be repaired and the mill pond restored.

Response:

The omission of the Truax Cemetery (#37) from the cultural resource inventory was an oversight. This omission has been corrected by illustrating the general location of the cemetery on revised Figure II-K-1. The Miller's House opposite

the Dirck Groot's sawmill, while not specifically mentioned in the discussion of historic resources, is illustrated on Photograph 27 in Hartgen Archaeological's Literature Review and Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment (Appendix 4 of the DGEIS)

The "Cannon Hill Dune" (#42) was not mentioned in the discussion of historical resources because it is natural feature. While it is mentioned in the metes and bounds description of the Truax lease, the purposes of the archaeological sensitivity assessment was to document man-made historic structures and features.

The sandstone boundary marker (#52) was originally not mentioned because it was very small historical feature. However, in recognition of its importance, it has been added to the revised Figure II-K-1.

The statement that the Truax Tavern (#38) was a nineteenth century feature was an error. The Tavern does date to the Revolutionary War Period.

The discussion the commenter provides for the site of Dirck Groot's sawmill (#39) is correct. The narrative provided is supplemental to that provided in the DGEIS.

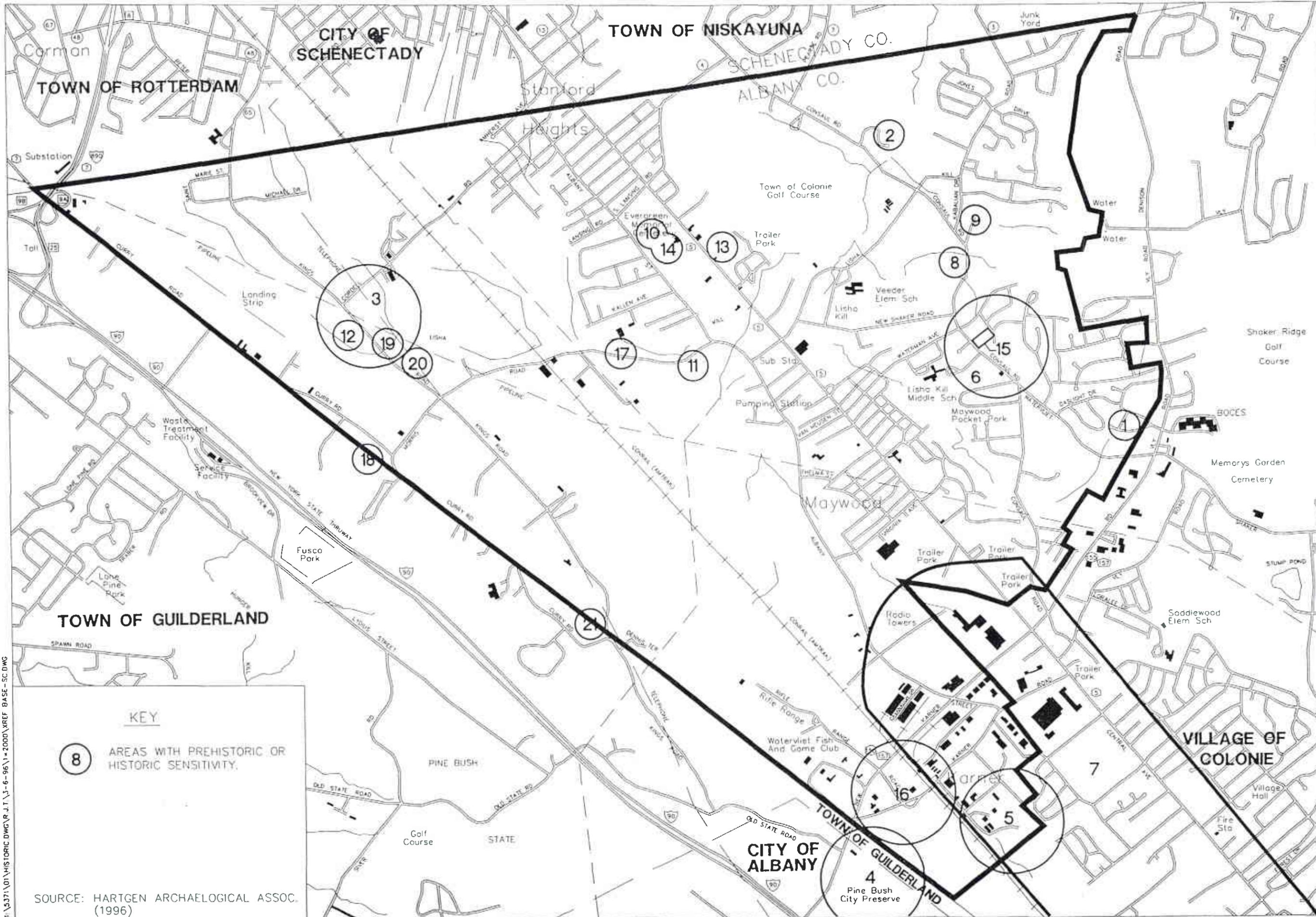
3. Comment:

There is one example above all others showing that Colonie does not take sufficient responsibility for the community's cultural resources. The example is the Jacob Weaver Halle Huis type of Dutch barn on Vly Road. This is a type not even found everywhere in Holland. It is on the west side of Vly Road, a little north of Shaker Road. This is probably the last Dutch barn left in Colonie, yet is about to collapse. It wasn't in as bad condition several years ago when I reported it through a historic sites inventory contractor for the Town.

Your inventory leaves this barn out, even though it is on the border of your study area. Why? It is, in all likelihood, the most significant and unique example of Dutch architecture remaining in Colonie. This is farm architecture and the area of most of Colonie was formerly Dutch tenant farms of Rensselaerwyck. The tenant farmers and millers were the hard working people who made the Patroons prosper and they should be commemorated, at least as equally well, with some historic buildings and features.

Response:

The Jacob Weaver Halle Huis Barn was not presented because it is outside the Study Area. Its omission was not intended to diminish its importance, as it is



AREAS WITH PREHISTORIC OR HISTORIC SENSITIVITY
LISHA KILL - KINGS ROAD AREA
GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



CHA CLOUGH, HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES LLP
 ENGINEERS SURVEYORS PLANNERS
 & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
 111 WINNERS CIRCLE - ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205
 FIGURE NO. II-K-1 (REVISED) SCALE: 1" = 2000

KEY
 8 AREAS WITH PREHISTORIC OR HISTORIC SENSITIVITY.

SOURCE: HARTGEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOC. (1996)

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listed on the National Register. The archaeological sensitivity assessment was intended to concentrate only on those resources within the Study Area.

4. Comment:

Two additional location of Indian artifact finds have been reported by local residents to Save the Pine Bush. They are at the west end and the east end of the big inter-dune sand flat, west of Morris Road. One location is a little behind the Star Dust Inn on Curry Road. In this case, neither a good description, nor the artifacts were available. The other location is at the east end of this sand flat where there is a corn field. This is between Curry Road and the southern most tributary of the Lisha Kill. Here a Vosburg point and a few flint chips were found.

Just a little west of Morris Road and North of Curry Road there is an apparently artificial sand ridge running in a straight line north and south. We do not know what this is. Perhaps it was for nineteenth century field division or perhaps something left over from a failed construction project. Who knows? In any event, it ought to be given a closer look, just to determine if it is of any consequence or not.

Response:

The purpose of the archaeological sensitivity assessment was to develop an inventory of the known prehistoric and historic resources within the Study Area. The Town of Colonie can then use this information to identify the potential impact future development may have on these resources. The intent was not to complete site specific studies on every undeveloped parcel in the Study Area. Site specific studies will be required as part of the review of individual projects as they are proposed.

However, the information regarding potential prehistorically sensitive areas in the Curry Road area is appreciated. These resources will have to be studied in more detail if projects are proposed for either of these sites.