

NEA Conference on New England Archaeology NEWSLETTER

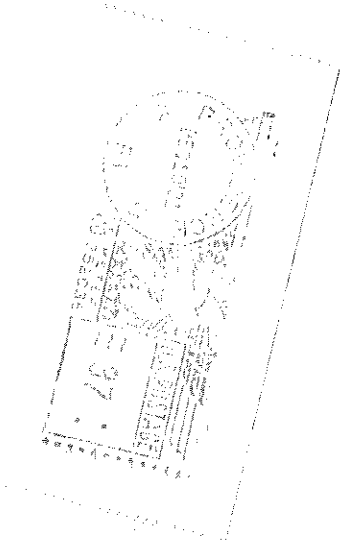
CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

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CNEA Conference on New England Archaeology NEWSLETTER

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Thoughts on "Social Systems and Material Remains"

F.P. McManamon

In 1978 Jared Diamond, a noted ecologist, published an article about the rediscovery by his colleagues of competition as a causal factor for adaptive states, intra-community relationships and ecological community structure (Diamond 1978). He noted that many of the initial modern investigations of ecological communities were conducted in relatively harsh environments. This environmental focus had been purposeful since ecologists believed that the simple ecological communi-

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ties of those environments would be easier to describe and interpret. The principles learned from arctic or subarctic communities, for example, then could be used to explain intracommunity relationships elsewhere. Not surprisingly, natural environmental conditions in these marginal environments usually were found to influence ecological communities more strongly than intracommunity competition, if competition was observed at all.

As ecologists began to look closely at communities and interspecies relationships in temperate and tropical environments, however, the importance of competition among species became increasingly apparent (e.g., MacArthur 1958; Simberloff 1974). Diamond goes on to point out that this is indeed a rediscovery of competition. Charles Darwin, certainly one of the great ecologists, regarded competition as primary to the development of adaptive states and interspecific relationships, except in harsh natural environments:

When we reach the Arctic regions, or snowcapped summits, or absolute deserts, the struggle for life is almost exclusively with the elements. When we travel southward and see a species decreasing in numbers, we may feel sure that the cause lies quite as much in other species being favored, as in this one being hurt (Darwin 1859:69 cited in Diamond 1978:322).

These notions deserve attention from New England archeologists. Among prehistorians, at least, spatial and temporal variations in the natural environment have more often than not been hypothesized as causal factors (e.g., Moore and Root 1979; Mulholland 1979). If natural ecology can be relied upon for insights into human adaptive states and intergroup relations, we might be erring to so emphasize the effect of natural environmental factors at the expense of aspects of the social environment. This extrapolation from ecology can itself be a point considered by participants and during subsequent discussion.

Accepting from the moment that social factors can be important for explaining behavior and attitudes, we are faced with the challenge of identifying social units, and detecting and monitoring spatial and temporal variation in social patterns archeologically in New England. These include, for example, the level and type of interaction among more or less distinct social units and the change in such interaction among social units over time. Archeologists using historic period data are sensitive to the effect of social contacts such as the passing of high status pottery second-hand to low status individuals (Moran 1977) and the extent of contact between distinct social units such as different ethnic groups (Deetz 1977:138-155; Baker 1978:110-112). They note, however, the

potential danger in identifying social units and interaction through historical documents (e.g., Wood 1980). Their interest also, then, is piqued by methods and techniques for identifying social units and interaction, as well as by substantive results.

The means by which social phenomena^a are detected and monitored archeologically must be congruent with the archeological data available in New England. Often these data are relatively poorly preserved; difficult to compile for detailed comparisons over large areas; disturbed by either cultivation or development; and buried beneath substantial amounts of soil, concrete, or asphalt. Prehistorians have the additional disadvantage of the rarity of pottery that contains useful stylistic information, although recent stylistic analysis of types of lithic artifacts might provide similar, though less detailed information (Kay 1975, 1979; Close 1978; Seeman and Munson 1980).

Considerations of spatial and temporal scale are important in discussions of social units and interaction. The precise meaning of the term "more or less distinct social unit" depends upon the analytical focus. Social phenomena examined by 1000 year intervals differ from those observed at 10 year intervals. Similar differences must be distinguished between investigations of patterns throughout New England and those focused upon relatively small portions of it, for example, a segment of the Connecticut River Valley.

The main session of the Second Conference on New England Archaeology aims to consider these topics theoretically, imaginatively, methodologically and substantively. Participants and audience are encouraged to think hard about the theme and topics and to attend with the intention of probing the questions and, hopefully, providing some answers.

What are they?

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By Laws

The following By Laws as proposed by the Steering Committee, will be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting Sunday, February 7, 1982.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization will be the Conference on New England Archaeology.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Conference shall be:

(a) To strengthen communication and facilitate a continuous interchange of information between archaeologists who work in New England;

(b) To sponsor an annual conference covering current theoretical and research advances in New England archaeology; and

(c) To distribute a newsletter containing information relevant to current research which enhances communication between archaeologists.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership: Membership is open to any person in agreement with the objectives of the Conference as stated in Article II above, upon payment of the prescribed dues.

Section 2. Voting: Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Members.

Section 3. Termination of Membership: The Steering Committee may, by a three-fourths vote, remove from the membership rolls any member whose acts are contrary to the purposes of the Conference or who otherwise makes improper use of membership. Such action by the Steering Committee may be subject to appeal by the following procedures: Upon request of the affected party, the Steering Committee or the voting membership present at the annual meeting, may reinstate membership, upon a three-fourths vote of either party.

Section 4. Termination for non-payment: Membership shall be terminated upon non-payment of dues for three months following the annual reminder to pay dues. Reinstatement shall be automatic upon payment of the accrued dues.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting shall be held on two consecutive days in February of each year.

Section 2. Quorum: A quorum for the transaction of business shall be 15% of the total membership.

Section 3. Business Meeting: A Business Meeting will be held on the second day of the annual conference for the purpose of electing new members to the Steering Committee and for conducting other business that may arise.

ARTICLE V. STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Authority: The business of the Conference shall be managed by a Steering Committee which shall have full power to administer, direct and conduct its affairs.

Section 2. Number: The Steering Committee shall be composed of six members who shall be chosen as provided in Article VI.

Section 3. Vacancy: In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee shall have the power to make an interim appointment, which appointment shall terminate at the next annual conference of the Members, and the remaining term of the office, if any, shall be filled by election of the Members.

Section 4. Meetings: The Steering Committee shall meet as necessary to plan the annual conference, to produce the newsletter, and to conduct the business of the Conference.

Section 5. Quorum: A quorum of the Steering Committee shall consist of a majority of its members.

Section 6. Sub-Committees: The Steering Committee may establish such standing and ad hoc sub-committees as they deem advisable in the administration and conduct of the affairs of the Conference. The Steering Committee may appoint individuals from the general membership to serve on sub-committees.

(a) The Steering Committee shall establish a standing Conference Sub-Committee. The Chairman of the Conference Sub-Committee shall act as the Conference Coordinator.

(b) The Steering Committee shall establish a standing Newsletter Sub-Committee. The Chairman of the Newsletter Sub-Committee shall be Newsletter Editor.

Section 7. Term of Office: The Term of Office for the Steering Committee shall be either for one or two years. Two members of the Steering Committee elected in 1981 shall serve two year terms; the remaining four members shall serve one year terms. Thereafter, four members of the Steering Committee shall be elected annually: two of these members shall serve two year terms and two of these members shall serve one year terms. Any Steering Committee member may succeed himself in office.

Section 8. Removal: A member of the Steering Committee may be removed for non-attendance at meetings after written notice and by a three-quarters vote of the Steering Committee.

Section 9. Annual Report: The Steering Committee shall prepare an annual report for submission to the Members. A summary of the results of the annual conference and a summary of the financial status of the Conference shall be included in that report.

ARTICLE VI. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Nominations by Members: Members interested in serving on the Steering Committee may nominate themselves by completing the nomination form available at the registration desk at the annual conference, and by submitting the completed form to the Conference Coordinator, provided that the Conference Coordinator receives the nomination form by five o'clock P.M. on the first day of the annual conference.

Section 2. Nominations by the Steering Committee: The Steering Committee may nominate members, provided nominees meet the criteria established in Section 3, below.

Section 3. Criteria of Nominations:

(a) Nominees shall be members in good standing in the Conference;

(b) Nominees shall be willing to serve and attend the meetings necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Conference; and

(c) To the extent feasible, nominations will be encouraged from members representing a broad geographic distribution throughout New England, and from members representing the broad interests of prehistoric, historic and industrial archaeology.

Section 4. Preparation of Ballot: The Conference Coordinator shall prepare a ballot of candidates who have been nominated and appear to meet the criteria for nomination.

Section 5. Elections: Election of the Steering Committee shall be by secret ballot conducted at the business meeting at the Annual Conference. Candidates must make every reasonable effort to attend the business meeting. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve two year terms as members of the Steering Committee. The two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve one year terms as members of the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers: The Officers of the Conference shall be a Conference Coordinator, a Newsletter Editor, a Secretary/ Treasurer, and such other officials as may be appointed and determined by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall select officers from its members.

Archaeological Fieldwork and Research-Summer 1981

Section 2. Conference Coordinator: The Conference Coordinator shall chair the Conference Subcommittee, and shall be responsible for planning and arranging for the annual conference. The Conference Coordinator's duties shall include: planning and organizing the annual conference; developing an agenda and conducting the business meeting, and preparing the ballot and overseeing the election of new Steering Committee members.

Section 3. Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter Editor shall chair the Newsletter Sub-Committee, and shall be responsible for publishing the Newsletter of the Conference. The Newsletter Editor's duties shall include: receiving contributed articles, editorial review, printing and distribution of the newsletter.

Section 4. Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer shall have charge of such books, documents and papers as the Steering Committee may determine, and shall have custody of all funds and property of the Conference subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Steering Committee. The Secretary/Treasurer may endorse on behalf of the Conference checks, notes and other obligations, and shall deposit same to the credit of the Conference at such bank(s) as the Steering Committee may designate. The Secretary/Treasurer shall sign all receipts and vouchers, and shall sign all checks and promissory notes, except in cases where the signing shall be expressly assigned by the Steering Committee to another officer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall regularly enter on the books of the Conference a full and accurate account of all monies and obligations received and/or incurred on account of the Conference, and shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of the Conference shall commence on March 1 and shall end on the last day in February.

ARTICLE IX. DUES

The Steering Committee may determine the amount of any dues payable to the Conference for Membership.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by the Membership of the Conference by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of its members in attendance at the annual meeting, providing that the proposed amendments to the by-laws be circulated to the membership thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

In Maine, the third season of fieldwork in the Boothbay Harbor region has been completed under the direction of David Sanger (U. Maine-Orono). About 200 sites, covering the last 5000 years of pre-history, have been documented in the shoreline zone of the 15 min. USGS quadrangle research area. In addition to routine examination for National Register status, hypotheses regarding year around residency and optimal location for resource procurement and settlement are being tested. Four theses covering various aspects of seasonality and locational analysis are in process. Related research includes the development of a localized sea level rise curve, site erosion, and shell C-14 dating. This work is being sponsored by Sea Grant (NOAA), the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and the University of Maine at Orono.. During 1981, the Casco Bay Archaeological Project under the direction of David Yesner (U. of Southern Maine) completed a second -- and probably final season of excavation at the Moshier Island site in southwestern Maine. The basis of the Moshier Island project has been to study apparently dramatic changes in human subsistence during the 4,000 year occupation of the site, to relate these to evolution of the estuary in this shallow part of the bay, and to correlate them with changes in human adaptive strategies reflected in the technological inventory. Subsidiary goals include placing the site within the larger framework of settlement patterns in the bay and adjacent river systems, and determining the internal structure of the site. During 1980 and 1981, a trench was excavated along the coastal exposure of the site to elicit subsistence changes in the deepest part of the site. Additional excavation was undertaken to recover evidence of habitation structures. Extensive paleoecological samples were also taken to enable reconstruction of seasons of site occupation as well as changes over time in strategies for fishing, shellfish collection, and hunting of both marine and terrestrial mammals. Also, in 1981 Yesner began a program of geological coring to determine the sedimentary history of adjacent portions of Casco Bay... At Agry's Point, Maine a public education project in archaeology under Theodore Bradstreet (U. Maine-Augusta) has been working on the Agry's Point site which spans ca. 2,400 B.P. to Contact.... Bruce Bourque is continuing archeological survey and testing on Penobscot Bay, concentrating on the islands in the northern portion of the bay.

The Public Archaeology Laboratory (P.A.L.) at Brown University has been working on many varied projects. The phase II work on Rte. 146 in Uxbridge and Sutton, Mass. involves four prehistoric sites; the Hartford Ave. Rock Shelter a single component-Late Woodland-site with good preservation of faunal remains; the Black Bear Site, a multi-component Archaic-Late Woodland site; the Cracker Site a multi-component Archaic site with a Late Archaic Vosburg component; and the Dead Dog Site which yielded lithic material (chalcedony) possibly from the nearby Conklin Lime Quarry. The P.A.L. will also be starting the phase II work on another section of Rte. 146 with three prehistoric and one historic site... Alan Leveillee is working on the G.B. Crane Site the result of the Mansfield-Norton Waste Water Treatment Outfall project. It is a multi-component Late Archaic and Middle Woodland transient-type camp located between a semi-permanent village and location-type sites along the drainages into Mt. Hope Bay....Bruce Lutz headed the Mass. Correctional Institution at Bridgewater project which located and defined the perimeter of late 19th c. cemeteries associated with the Institution....Peter Thorbahn and Pat Rubertone are coordinating two projects. The first is the Parker Woodland Project, a public education program to make people aware of archaeological resources, and will concentrate on historical archaeology. It will take place on the Audibon property in Foster R.I. The second is the Geo-Chem Project, an area slated for a new building on an extensively built upon urban city block on R.I.'s East Side. Located were historic remains and a part of a prehistoric site yielding a Late Archaic Squibnocket Triangle in a buried A Horizon along with chipping debris....Joan Gallagher has been working on the John Clark Property, one of the first settlers and the first Baptist Minister in Newport, R.I. The documentary records indicate that a house that burned in 1970 was an early Baptist Meeting house (1708), and the archaeological record revealed not only a late 17th c.- early 18th c. feature but deposits from that time through the present....Brona Simon is working on the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in Kinderhook, N.Y., conducting excavations to locate, describe and document the changes in the estate through time....Alan Leveillee and Duncan Ritchie completed work on Site #16 as part of the Boston Edison Project in Dover, Mass. It is a single component Middle/Late Woodland site with ceramics, a diagnostic ground stone axe blade, and materials (felsite) which match those at a prehistoric felsite quarry in close proximity (1,000 feet) to the site. Duncan is also working on the Mass Hill Hornfels-Braintree Slate Quarry project in Milton, Mass. It is an intensive phase I funded by the property owner of an extensive prehistoric lithic source area, only 20 acres of which is being looked at. The study focused on identifying quarry workshop locis (quarry pit features, etc.)...Peter and Pat are working on historic demographic

studies on the Outer Cape, an National Park Service contract and Lenny Loparto is doing a similar study of the Maine coast....The lab has also completed two reconnaissance surveys; one at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Mass. which located three prehistoric sites; and the second the NE Energy Park in Fall River, Mass. which located three historic sites....And the Bernon Street Bridge Project in Woonsocket, R.I. has been completed by William Stokinger.

Russell Barber of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, is working with Paul Robinson of the RI Historical Preservation Commission in studying the seasonality of sites from Rhode Island by examining softshell quahogs. The

shells come from excavated collections throughout the state. Barber is also studying population of oyster and clams from historic sites from Boston to Damariscotta. In particular, he's interested in the effects of pollution on the population biology of molluscs. Anyone who knows of historic sites with shell collections in which the shells are substantially intact is encouraged to contact Barber.

Prehistoric research in Vermont includes work on an unusually intact Early to Middle Archaic site in Swanton, Vermont. Excavated by Peter Thomas and the University of Vermont, the John's Bridge site (VT-FR-69) dates to ca. 8,000-8,200 B.P. (See "results".) Copies of this and other archaeological contract reports by the University of Vermont's Archeology Contract Program are on file at the Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont and at the Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier....Also, a major synthesis on Vermont Indians has just been written by William Haviland and Marjory Power (The Original Vermonters. Native Inhabitants, Past and Present) and is available from University Press of New England.

In New Hampshire, Donald Foster (Phillips Exeter Academy) has nearly completed excavations at the Stanley site (NH 47-18), a Late Archaic/Early Woodland site in Exeter where the focus was on tool manufacture and repair; an article on the site will be published shortly in The New Hampshire Archeologist....In George's Mills, Howard Sargent (Franklin Pierce College) and students spent the summer excavating at a multi-component site dating to ca. 6,000 B.P., 4,000 B.P., and A.D. 1400. In Belmont, two Middle Archaic Lithic workshops (NH 31-20-5) were excavated in spring 1981 by the University of New Hampshire (see "Results"), and in Concord, site survey work by UNH throughout the summer located several Late Archaic, Middle Woodland, and Late Woodland sites along the Merrimack River (see "Results").

At Old Sturbridge Village a project of Survey and Mapping of a graphite mine, Sturbridge Lead Mine, used from prehistoric times through the 19th century has been completed by Linda Ammons and John Worrell...John is also working on a project called Earthenware Production in Rural New England, which includes analysis of technical details, the economic context of the craft, and reproduction technology and experimentation at the Museum...Also Tedd Penn and John are about to start a project on the hydro-power re-adaptation of historic water resources at the Village. Included will be excavation, recording and technical hydrological data on features in use throughout the 19th century to the present hydro-electric adaption...John is digging the James Moore Pottery site in Brimfield, Massachusetts. He had uncovered the foundation of the kiln and a great deal of pottery, wasters and kiln furniture.

At the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission two summer projects have been completed; a verification survey of coastal sites by, Jordon Kerber and Takeshi Ueki on the "East Bay" section of R. I., and a report "A Management Plan for Prehistoric Archeological Resources in Rhode Island's Coastal Zone," submitted to the Office of Coastal Zone Management, authored by Paul Robinson...The Public Archaeology Facility S.U.N.Y. Binghamton has completed the phase I and II fieldwork for the I-895 project which runs from Hope Valley, R.I. to Bristol, R.I. a distance of approximately 16 miles of new road and 26 miles of up-grade. A report is due June 1982.

David Poirier of the Connecticut Historical Commission is conducting archeological investigations and research to compliment a historic restoration at the Prudence Crandall House in Canterbury, and a stabilization at Old Newgate Prison in East Granby; both ongoing projects.

....And on Bank Street in New London, Connecticut, Andrea Heintzelman-Meugo for DeLeuw, Cather/Parsons is conducting a survey for the N.E. Railroad Corridor Project studying areas of 18th-19th century maritime related craft industries....A HAER publication by Matt Roth is out titled "Connecticut: an Inventory of Historic and Engineering Sites," (S.A.I. 1981)...and if anyone is traveling through Connecticut it would be worth your while to stop in at Old Newgate Prison in Granby to see an excellent exhibit "Connecticut's Archeological Heritage" prepared by the Public Archeology Survey Team (P.A.S.T.) at UCONN. It's well worth the trip....The American-Indian Archaeological Institute (AIAI) published a wonderful magazine ARTIFACTS distributed to its members. For more information write them at P.O. Box 260, Washington, Ct. 06793....

A great deal of historical research is on-going in Maine including underwater archaeology, excavation and stabilization at forts, and intensive site surveys. The most notable underwater project is the excavation of the privateer Defence under the direction of David Switzer (Plymouth State). Lying in 25 feet of muddy water in Stockton Harbor in Castine, the Defence has undergone excavation for six out of the past seven summers. Scuttled in 1779, the Defence is now revealing many clues to 18th century shipbuilding techniques....Research and preservation are continuing at the site of Colonial Pemaquid in Bristol, Maine under the guidance of Robert Bradley (Maine Historic Preservation Commission) This early English settlement was occupied between ca. 1625 and 1775, and current work includes the study of 17th century structural features, dietary and trade patterns, and stabilization of the ruins. Excavations have also begun at Fort Pentagoet (ca. 1635-1675) in Castine, Maine under the direction of Alaric Faulkner (U. Maine-Orono). (See "Results"...Historic site surveys in Maine have included an intensive survey of fishing stage heads, farmsteads, and granite quarries on Damariscove Island by Alaric Faulkner (U. Maine-Orono); whereas Theodore Bradstreet (U. Maine-Augusta) has been directing a project at Angry's Point that include the study of a 17th century trading post, an 18th century shipyard, and 19th century commercial ice houses.

Barbara Luedtke of UMass-Boston is continuing analysis of materials excavated from the Shattuck Farm site in Andover, MA. The analysis is promising in that there was more horizontal separation of components evident at Shattuck Farm than is usual for sites in New England. Particularly interesting is the diversity of pottery recovered from the excavation: Early, Middle and Late woodland types are all present, with different varieties represented within each period. One area of the site had unusually good preservation of bone: large samples of sturgeon and smaller species were recovered. The unusual concentration of small fish raises interesting questions regarding the biomass efficiency of collecting large amounts of small species. Luedtke is also continuing the study of trace element composition in jasper comparing Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts jasper sources. Anyone familiar with New England sources of jasper is urged to contact Luedtke.

Beth Bower of the Museum of Afro American History is directing the completion of the laboratory work, analysis and a summary report of the fieldwork done at the African Meeting House from 1976 to 1978. Sheila Charles is in charge of the laboratory analysis and Joanne Bowen is directing the faunal analysis. The project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Al Bartovicks of North Adams State College has been sifting through a local collection of memorabilia from defunct exhibits at the North Adams Public Library.

Jim Bradley of the Massachusetts Historical Commission succeeded in arranging with the Arthur Winn Development Company to provide funding for a three month processing and evaluation of materials salvaged from the excavation for the construction of the Grand Bostonian Hotel in Boston. One additional area will be salvaged this fall in conjunction with the final step of ground disturbance for a holding tank excavations. Materials recovered last year (during Bradley's lunch hour) include 17th and 18th century stratified fill in the area of the 17th century tidal pond. Although no features were distinguished during last year's salvage efforts, the site exhibits wet site conditions and is reknown for its good preservation. Neill DePaoli will be the principal investigator of the fall's project; Mary Beaudry (BU) is cooperating in the analysis. A major product of the three month project will be recommendations on how the materials can be used interpretatively in the new hotel lobby.

Suzanne Spencer-Wood, UMass-Boston is continuing research in correlating consumption patterns with socio-economic patterns. Recently, she's investigated 19th century sites in Lower Mills, Dorchester/Milton. During the fall, Spencer-Wood will salvage three 19th century house sites in Quincy: the house sites were occupied by individuals who represented ranging socio-economic groups from craftsmen to proprietors to laborers, and offer an unusual opportunity to correlate status items to social status.

And on Nantucket, Mass. Elizabeth A. Little is doing an ethno-history of Nantucket Indians, 1659-1764, from deeds, probate records, court records and account books.

The ICA completed the archaeological reconnaissance of the Blackstone Canal Heritage Park. The purpose of the survey was to do historical research and identify legible engineering features for interpretation and documentation. The Blackstone canal was used as a canal from 1828 to 1849, and was then converted into a waterpower source for factories located along it. Ellen Rosebrock, Ted Penn and Scott Andruss did the survey and found among other things two sites of trading posts which had been supplied by barge Landings, stores and locks were found offering opportunities to study rural trade patterns of that time period.

Strawberry Bank, Inc. coordinated three archaeological excavations in Portsmouth, New Hampshire this summer. Stephen Pendry was the project director of a city funded archaeological survey of two urban renewal parcels on Deer Street. Substantial remains of early eighteenth century housing development were found. This included the Hart-Shortridge site which contained a ca. 1830 stone lined privy containing great quantities of ceramic and glass. The excavation continues this fall.... Gray Graffam supervised excavations at the Rider-Wood house which involved 160 community volunteers. An early eighteenth century tanning vat and an early nineteenth century privy containing faunal, ceramic and botanical material were among the features uncovered. This excavation was funded by the New Hampshire Council for Humanities.... Faith Harrington supervised excavations that took place at a portion of puddle dock. Fragments of a late seventeenth-early eighteenth century wharf were found. This dig was funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. ...Also in New Hampshire, mapping of the surface of Canterbury Shaker Village - and the identification of archaeological sites - is continuing and should be completed by the end of 1981. This is part of a larger community studies project, but the archaeology of Shaker Village will be the subject of a monograph to appear in 1982. Another report has already been finished, and this is the completion report to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for the New England Glassworks project. This was the earliest glass factory in the state of New Hampshire, and the site was excavated between 1975 and 1978. (See "Results").

Frank McManamon of the Northeast Regional National Park Service reports that two radiocarbon dates have been obtained from unburned bone samples from the Wellfleet Ossuary, Wellfleet, MA. The bone collagen sample (#GX-777-G C 13 corrected) date is 915 ± 120 b.p.; the bone apatite sample (#GX-777-A C 13 corrected) date is 935 ± 125 b.p. Both dates are earlier than was expected for the ossuary and provide a chronological context for the single Large Triangle Point recovered from the ossuary. A report on the site, including a physical analysis of the human remains, will be published by the Park Service within the year... McManamon also reports a promising study underway by Mary Hancock for the National Park Service on the seasonality of shellfish collections from sites on the Cape. Analysis of thin sections of hard shell clams (*mercenaria*) indicate heaviest shellfish use during the spring and summer, least use during the fall and moderate use during the winter. The seasonality study is a part of the larger NPS survey of the National Seashore. Park Service staff are analyzing the results of the first two years of survey and site examination; preliminary results tend to substantiate general ideas about long term intensive prehistoric use and occupation in Nauset.

Most historical archaeology in Vermont consists of underwater archaeology in Lake Champlain. Arthur Cohn, owner and head divemaster of Northern Divers, Inc., Burlington, Vermont, assisted by the Champlain Maritime Society and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and under permit to the State, headed a team that documented and undertook data recovery on the General Butler, an intact canal schooner. Built in the early 1860s, she crashed into the Burlington Breakwater on December 17, 1876 during a violent storm. Conservation work on the artifacts was directed by Ken Morris, Conservator with the New York State Division of Historic Preservation, Peebles Island, and carried out by a team of divers and archaeologists. Plans to make the General Butler Vermont's first underwater historic park are under serious consideration. Both a touring and a permanent exhibit of the General Butler artifacts and documentation are also in the planning stages as well as a publication on the General Butler and canal boats of that era. The Champlain Maritime Society has taken responsibility for developing and maintaining an inventory of shipwrecks on Lake Champlain. During the past year, the Society has concentrated its efforts on identifying and cataloging all merchant vessels known to have been owned on the lake as well as those known to have been lost on the lake, regardless of home port. To date 460 vessels have been inventoried, of which 120 had accidentally sunk or were intentionally abandoned.

The Ewing Site, which was excavated by the Vermont Archaeological Society from 1974 to 1978 is now being cleaned and catalogued using ARDVARK forms to enter the information into the computer. (ARDVARK being a set of computer programs developed by Mitchell Mullholland at UMass-Amherst). This is a large multicomponent site with excellent bone preservation...The cultural resource management program at the University of Vermont has completed two management studies for the Soil Conservation Service - one for the Black River and one for the lower Winooski River. The goal was to synthesize what is known about the history and prehistory of these two watersheds. Management studies are currently being conducted for the Army Corps of Engineers on two flood control reservoirs on the Black River and on the West River in Central Vermont. Five prehistoric sites have been identified and many historical sites mapped in.

At Rhode Island College in Providence, Pierre Morenon and the Public Archaeology Program report three current projects. Study of the Jere Tabor House, a Phase II excavation for the Department of Environmental Management in Tiverton, Rhode Island examined a midnineteenth century residence associated with the Old Stone Bridge and Fall River Turnpike (1838) and rural maritime activities along Mount Hope Bay at the Borden Wharf. Intensive use of the computer facilities at RIC enabled the project to code sixty-five variables for the nearly 500 levels excavated on the project...A mid-nineteenth century residence, four prehistoric sites and fourteen historic quarries were studied for the Woonsocket Industrial Development Corporation in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. These archaeological locations were identified as part of an extensive survey of forty-four hectares, involving over one thousand test excavations. Data collected contributes to both an understanding of inland prehistoric site locations and characteristics, and to changing rural landuses in the nineteenth century...A Phase II study of a prehistoric site near Wenscott Reservoir for the Town of North Providence has resulted in the identification of a locality with some similarities to the Twin Rivers Archaeological Site, identified by William Fowler in the early 1950's. Dense concentrations of quartzite with stratigraphic integrity within the B Horizon provide an opportunity to examine the production of a limited range of stone tools.

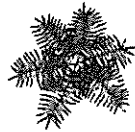
Dena Dincauze, UMass-Amherst, is reportedly stockpiling ideas for future research while waiting for manuscripts on northeastern archeology to arrive for her review for American Antiquity. However, there are a number of UMass students active in research...Bob Hasenstab is studying Iroquios regional settlement pattern in relation to the intensification of horticulture. Site data is supplied by the Rochester Museum and SUNY Buffalo for sites in Central and Western New York State... Meanwhile, Elise Brenner recently completed the first season of survey at the Natick Praying Village. Her research interests in the site focus on the changes in native social and political organization during the Contact Period.

The South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell, Mass. sponsored "Archaeology for Young Adults" under the supervision of Mr. David Magnusson in August. The program took place at a Victorian period house and will continue this fall.

Current Research-Results

Salvage Excavations at NH 31-20-5

Excavations were conducted at two Middle Archaic Lithic workshops between April and June 1981 by Archaeological Research Service of the University of New Hampshire. Located in Belmont, New Hampshire, NH 31-20-5 was excavated for the New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways. Initial systematic testing of the site demonstrated there were two lithic workshops within the subsoil, located at the northern and southern extremes of the site. A total of 25 one-meter-square pits were excavated in the more northerly workshops and 26 one-meter-square pits in the southern. Both workshops contained large amounts of debitage (19, 162 flakes in the northern and 8,541 in the southern), chiefly of rhyolite, as well as Neville and Stark points, perforators, assorted other bifaces, and scrapers. Both workshops showed very little mixing with artifacts from other time periods, and the southern workshop also included several hearths. The debitage has undergone detailed attribute analysis, and a completion report is currently under preparation. David Starbuck, Archaeological Research Services, University of New Hampshire. (603) 862-1547.



New England Glassworks

Between 1975 and 1978 excavations were conducted at the New England Glassworks in Temple, New Hampshire by Boston University. The site, dating from 1780 to 1782, included industrial structures and a small workers' village of at least three houses. The excavation was one of the most extensive ever undertaken at an industrial site in this country, and artifact analysis has continued from 1978 to the present. The project completion report has now been submitted by David Starbuck to the granting agency, the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office. As documented in the report, this factory produced the first crown window glass manufactured in America, as well as bottles of several sizes, small vials, and possibly glass tubing. With the completion of writing and analysis, efforts are now being made to preserve and exhibit the site itself. David Starbuck, Archaeological Research Services, University of New Hampshire (603) 862-1547.

The John's Bridge Site

Excavation and analysis of an Early to Middle Archaic hunting and fishing camp in Vermont was undertaken in 1980. The John's Bridge site (VT-FR-69), on a rocky terrace adjacent to the Missisquoi River in Swanton, Vermont, was identified in June 1979 as a result of archaeological assessments for a Vermont Agency of Transportation bridge replacement project. Based on initial evaluation studies, the John's Bridge site was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and data recovery was undertaken in that section of the site which could not be avoided. The final data recovery report was completed in November 1980. (See Peter A. Thomas & Brian S. Robinson. 1980. The John's Bridge Site: VT-FR-69, Area I. Phase III Data Recovery for Project BRS 0285(2). Prepared for the Vermont Agency of Transportation by the Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Vermont, Burlington. Report No. 28.)

Based on tool typology, VT-FR-69 was at first believed to be a Late Archaic, "Brewerton-like" component, dating from roughly 5,000 B.P. Four C-14 dates indicated a much earlier age of ca. 8,000 to 8,200 B.P. for the site: (GX-7400) -- $8,240 \pm 240$ B.P. and (GX-7401) -- $8,340 \pm 245$ B.P., both C-13 corrected; and (GX-6795) -- 7780 ± 225 B.P. and (GX6850) -- 7405 ± 225 B.P., not corrected for C-13.

The John's Bridge site is significant in Northeastern archaeology for several reasons: first, a new type of projectile point unrecognized elsewhere in New England and New York was encountered. Since VT-FR-69 is a single component site, the sample of eleven "Swanton corner-notch" points represents the range of variation produced in almost a moment of time by a few individuals. Second, the particular shape of the preforms (n=14) may also prove useful as a general prehistoric time marker. Third, while the stone tools indicate that hunting was a focal subsistence strategy, the recovery of two bullhead or catfish spines indicates that fish were being taken. This diversity of exploitation strategies is frequently predicted but only rarely demonstrated by excavations in New England sites. Fourth, information on activity areas and the nature of occupation was also gathered. The presence of deep pit features, two probable surface hearths, a possible shelter and the high density of both tools and flaking debitage somewhat counters the usual picture of transient settlements during this period in Vermont.

Intensive 1980 reconnaissance surveys (Dr. Peter Thomas, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Vermont) of portions of the Missisquoi and Lamoille River watersheds identified 71 prehistoric sites, at least four of which are contemporaneous with the John's Bridge site. Giovanna Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, VT (802) 828-3226

Vermont Education Programs

In response to Vermont teachers who expressed interest in supplementing their social studies programs, the Education Programs in Archeology were prepared for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation by Lauren Kelley, Dept. of Social Studies, Colchester High School and Dr. Peter A. Thomas, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Vermont, with the assistance of numerous individuals. The 1980-81 project was partially funded by a matching grant-in-aid from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, through the Division for Historic Preservation. The following programs were prepared to be used in conjunction with a comprehensive Teacher's Guide: a Vermont prehistory slide presentation and cassette tape; "What is a Tool?" kit; "Culture History Mystery" kit; and the Excavation Strategy Game. These programs are being distributed by two teacher resource centers and are in great demand. Two booklets were also prepared by Kelley and Thomas as part of the education grant: An Archeological View of Vermont's Past and The Preservation of Vermont's Archeological Resources. Giovanna Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, VT (802) 828-3226



Farmington River Archaeological Project

Work in the Farmington River Archaeological Project focussed on a Woodland site situated on a natural levee of the Farmington River in the town of Avon, Connecticut. The site was excavated to increase our data base for examining the relationship between site location within the valley, seasonality, function and time. The site provided very little in terms of lithics but large quantities of thick walled, interior and exterior cordmarked pottery were recovered. Interior surfaces of sherds tended to be weathered away, exposing very clearly the coiled construction of the ceramics. Beyond this, several fragments of at least two slate gorgets were recovered. Reconstruction indicates a rectangular shape with convex, polished edges and a polished front face. Several examples of incomplete drill holes may indicate breakage during manufacture. The site is quite small, covering no more than 60 m and represents one of a growing number of examples that we have examined in the Farmington Valley, of small, artifactually rich, specialised activity sites located on the floodplain of the river. Ken Feder, Central Connecticut State College.

Casco Bay Archaeological Project

Previous studies on Moshier Island in southwestern Maine have suggested that initial occupation of the site took place ca. 4,000 years B.P., at a time of warmer oceanic temperature and shallower local water conditions (as indicated by exploitation of oysters, bay scallops, and quahogs, as well as sturgeon, which were traditionally fished at river mouths). Subsequently, site occupants shifted to collecting soft-shell clams and fishing for cod, probably resulting from an onset of cooler and deeper water conditions. Availability of the new soft-shell clam resource apparently allowed exploitation of uniformly large-sized individuals, followed by a gradual decline in size as the resource became depleted. As a result of our 1981 field season, we have been able to show that these subsistence changes are coincident with the shift from the Susquehanna Terminal Archaic (indicated particularly by projectile points and plummets) to Woodland cultures (including some Early but mostly Middle Woodland). In addition, two Susquehanna-period house structures were excavated, both of which had been dug into the surrounding glacial till. About 2-3 m in diameter, they show clear evidence of postholes, gravel floors, external hearths, and associated dumps. The similarity of these to Ceramic period houses further east, as well as evidence of continuous occupation of the site, suggests local continuity in the human population from Susquehanna times on, in spite of changes in subsistence and technology. Hopefully, these data will eventually shed some light on both the fate of the Susquehanna culture and origins of local Woodland cultures. David Yesner, Dept. of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal.



The Phoenix Project

Assisted by a matching grant-in-aid from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the Champlain Maritime Society in 1980 conducted a detailed documentation study of the Phoenix, believed to be one of the earliest steamship wrecks in America. Built in 1814 in Vergennes, Vermont, she burned to the waterline and sank in Lake Champlain in 1819 in 60-100 feet of water. A 146x27-foot portion of her hull and many of her fittings remain. The Champlain Maritime Society, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Lake Champlain's maritime history, has completed a final technical report on the results of the project, setting out guidelines for reconnaissance level work for all interested and concerned divers as well as a shorter, non-technical booklet on the Phoenix project. Giovanna Peebles, Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, VT (802) 828-3226

This spring Bruce Bourque, with a crew from Bates College, completed test excavations at an important middle Archaic site on an island in Lake Cobbosseecontee. Artifacts recovered include Neville, Stark, and a series of generally similar unnamed point styles. Later occupations contributed a small amount of additional material, but artifact distributional data will allow discrimination between the early loci and later small ones. Most interesting aspect of the site is the abundance of burned animal bone associated with the early material. No charcoal dating samples were recovered.



Steve Cox is continuing analysis of collections from two decades of amateur excavation and two seasons of museum field work at the Goddard site has revealed no further evidence of a Norse presence beyond the coin found in 1957. The major component of the site is a large late ceramic summer village (ca. 1,000-400 B.P.), although nearly every prehistoric culture known from Maine is represented. Large amounts of exotic lithic materials within the late ceramic component, including Ramah chert, Onodaga chert, and a variety of cherts and copper from the Bay of Fundy, suggest a wide-ranging trade network, which in turn may account for the presence of the coin at the site.



This past summer in the course of a Phase II survey of an historic site in Groton, Connecticut for the U.S. Navy, the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. from the University of Connecticut discovered a Paleo-Indian site. Located on a ridge overlooking the Thames River, the site yielded the basal portion of a fluted point, one Stark stemmed projectile point, one chert biface reduction flake, and two chert end scrapers, both of which were highly utilized and show wear consistent with use on soft materials. P.A.S.T. estimates the site to measure approximately 25 square meters. The investigation suggests that the site was a very small temporary camp at which hunting and related activities took place. Mitigation in the form of excavation will take place in Spring 1982.

Connecticut River Valley

The Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. of the University of Connecticut completed its fourth field season in its regional survey of prehistoric sites in the lower Connecticut River Valley this summer. One of the goals of this long term survey is a clearer understanding of prehistoric subsistence and settlement systems in Connecticut and southern New England. The town of Haddam, a 60 mile square area, was surveyed; 1% of this area was actually tested. Sixty sites were discovered, from Paleo-Indian to Contact period. This year P.A.S.T. altered its research design slightly to concentrate on locating upland and inland sites rather than the larger base camps along the river. All of the sites were tested to some degree; 10% were excavated. Although analysis is in progress, the data suggest that settlement/subsistence changes in the Woodland Period may be a result of aboriginal trade and intensification of the use of upland resources. The project was funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.



Fort Pentagoet, Castine, Maine

The fortified trading post and settlement of Pentagoet (c. 1635-1675) was built by the French to maintain and defend the southern limites of Acadia, which once included half the coast of Maine. Extensive documentation includes two independent plans dated 1670, complete with descriptions of the fort, its structures and surrounding outbuildings. Recent test excavations show that much of this complex survives intact, in spite of coastal erosion and 19th century excavation. Foundation walls of slate imported from France remain intact, standing as high as 2.1 meters. Other features include a cobblestone-paved parade ground, and a workshop area with evidence of a coal-fueled forge, and on-site manufacture of "Dutch"-type gunflints. The site exhibits, in places, excellent preservation of metals and organic matter and provides an exceptional look at French material culture on the early Acadian frontier. Measures are being formulated to save the remainder of the site from coastal erosion and to prepare it for further study. Alaric Faulkner, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Maine, Orono (207) 581-7102.

Merrimack River Survey

In the summer of 1981 a field school from the University of New Hampshire spend 8 weeks conducting site survey in the vicinity of Sewall's Falls, just north of Concord, New Hampshire. Artifacts from Sewall's Falls are richly represented in local collections, and this is one of the least-disturbed falls on the upper Merrimack. While a primary objective was to locate one of the 17th century forts of the Pennacook chief Passaconaway, the project instead located a series of small Late Archaic through Late Woodland sites, including over a dozen hearths and large amounts of Middle and Late Woodland pottery. Research here was under the direction of David Starbuck, and staff consisted of W. Dennis Chesley, Mary Dupre, and Terry Rice. Site survey and analysis of collections along the upper Merrimack is expected to continue for the next several years. David Starbuck, Archaeological Research Services, University of New Hampshire (603) 862-1547.



Conyers Farm

An archaeological survey commissioned by the town of Greenwich, Connecticut, after implementation of a town ordinance requiring surveys for all development projects involving more than 10 acres, was conducted on the Conyers Farm estate. Conyers Farm, an early 20th century example of an attempt to recreate the English manor by Edmond C. Converse, founder of U.S. Steel, contains the remains of structures predating the manor, those built expressly for the manor itself and structures built or modified subsequent to the demise of the manor.

Our reconnaissance survey indicated the importance of the manor as a cultural-material record of life in Greenwich from the prehistoric period (two prehistoric sites were located in the probability sample) and historic periods. The material record present chronicles, as no history does, life in rural Greenwich and testifies to the changes that occurred in that life when structures and the people who lived within them were incorporated into the self-sufficient manor.

Remains of quarters built for the Italian stone masons who worked on the manor potentially provide key material data on ethnicity and acculturation for a group that certainly could not write its own history.

The importance of these resources has been strongly presented to the town and we are presently awaiting their decision regarding the development projects. Ken Feder, Connecticut Archaeological Survey, Central Connecticut State College.

Dickey-Lincoln School Dam

George Nicholas and Robson Bonnicksen, Institute for Quaternary Studies, University of Maine-Orono conducted a survey and testing program of the upper river terraces within the proposed Dickey-Lincoln School Dam reservoir in northern Maine for the Army Corps of Engineers. A team of archaeologists and geologists examined various late Pleistocene-early Holocene landforms to provide additional data on the early prehistory of northern New England. Survey locations centered on the St. John, Big and Little Black, and Shields Branch Rivers. Three upper terrace sites were located during the survey, representing two distinct paleo-environmental settings. Two of the sites were tested following a successful proton magnetometer survey to establish minimum parameters of the sites. The relative age of these high terraces, supported by regional surficial geology, location within watershed, presence of paleosols, and diagnostic cultural materials, support an early Holocene date for the initial occupation of the region.

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The 1982 Conference

The second annual conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, the 6th and 7th of February, at the Science Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The conference will be organized a bit differently than in 1981. The entire first day will be devoted to a general session entitled "Social Systems and Material Remains" which will include theoretical papers, case studies and commentaries addressing both historical and prehistoric period remains. Sunday morning will be set aside for small group meetings. Early Sunday afternoon a meeting will be held to discuss the future of public archeology in New England following which the Conference business meeting including Steering Committee elections will be held. There will be a \$3.00 Conference registration fee.

An agenda and the participants are listed below:

Agenda

Saturday, 6 FEB. 82

"Social Systems and Material Remains"

9:30 - 11:30 Presentations on theory, imagination and expected patterns of remains.
Al Bartovics, North Adams State College
Art Keene, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Dean Snow, S.U.N.Y., Albany
S. Morawski: gender roles

1:30 - 3:30: Presentations of case studies.
Beth Bower, Museum of Afro-American History, Boston
Alaric Faulkner, University of Maine, Orono
Ken Feder, Central Connecticut State College, New Britain
Barbara Luedtke, University of Massachusetts, Boston

3:30 - 4:30 Commentary on the topic and the presentations
Dena Dincauze, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
David Starbuck, University of New Hampshire, Durham

Sunday, 7 FEB. 82

9:30 - 11:30 Small group sessions

1. Current research in prehistory
2. Current research in historic period archeology
3. Social systems and material patterns, a continuation of discussion on Saturday's topic
4. Other sessions suggested or organized by CNEA members

1:00 - 2:00

The future of the past--planning for archaeology in the 80s.

2:30 - 4:30

Conference business meeting and elections for Steering Committee.



DIRECTIONS

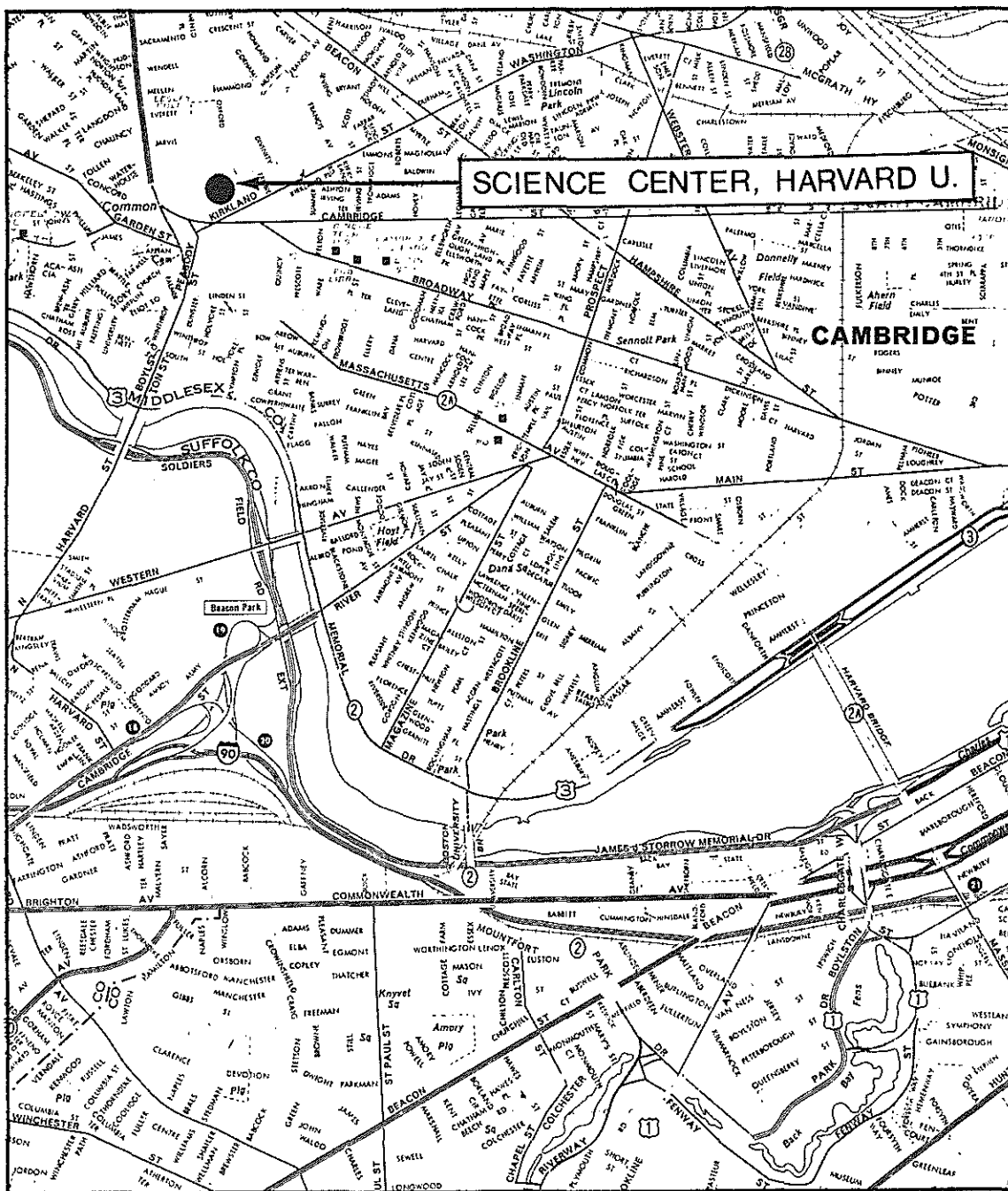
By public transportation: bus or subway to Harvard Square or Brattle Station; walk across Harvard Yard; Science Center is large modern building next to Memorial Hall at north end of Yard. By car: from Boston head West on either Storrow Drive or Memorial Drive; from Storrow Drive exit at and cross Larz Anderson Bridge (Boylston Street). Boylston Street runs directly into Harvard Square and merges with Mass. Avenue--follow signs for Cambridge Street bearing right through the underpass. As you exit from the underpass stay to the left of the fire station to the set of lights; turn left onto Quincy Street, and take a left at the next light onto Kirkland Street. The large modern building directly in front of you is the Science Building.

Parking: on-street parking near the Science Center is rarely available. The least expensive lot is behind the Brattle MBTA Station and the Harvard Motor Inn--follow walking directions to Science Center.



Two hotels are available within walking distance of the Science Center: Harvard Motor House, 110 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (617)864-5200, and Holiday Inn, 1651 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (617)491-1000.

Map



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 1982

To apply for annual membership to the CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY, please fill out the following form. The \$5.00 membership for the period March 1, 1982 through the last day of February, 1983 includes 2 issues of the Newsletter.

Make checks payable to: CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

Send to: Beth Bower
Treasurer-CNEA
Museum of Afro-American History
Box 5 Dudley Station
Roxbury, MA 02119

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Institution/Agency _____

Areas of Interest:

☐ I will attend the 1982 Conference. Registration Fee, \$3.00.

☐ I am interested in serving on the 1982 Steering Committee.

Total amount enclosed: _____