



*INTEGRATED HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING*

February 23, 2015

Stuart Manley, LEP, CHMM  
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates  
45 Farmington Valley Drive  
Plainville, Connecticut 06062

**RE: Cultural Resources Review of the Proposed Expansion of an United Illuminating Substation at the Intersection of Stratford Avenue and Honeyspot Road in Stratford, Connecticut**

Mr. Manley:

Heritage Consultants, LLC, is pleased to have this opportunity to provide Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, in support of United Illuminating, with the following archeological assessment of the proposed expansion to an existing electrical substation located at the Intersection of Stratford Avenue and Honeyspot Road in Stratford, Connecticut (Figure 1). The existing substation will increase in size and it will be expanded to the east. The current project entailed completion of an existing conditions cultural resources summary based on the examination of GIS data obtained from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, as well as historical data, aerial photographs, and topographic quadrangles maintained by Heritage Consultants, LLC. This investigation did not consider the effects of the proposed construction upon built resources, and it is based upon project location information provided to Heritage Consultants, LLC by Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. The objectives of this study were to gather and present data regarding previously identified cultural resources situated within the vicinity of the existing substation and to investigate the proposed project parcel in terms of its natural and historical characteristics so that the need for completing additional cultural resources investigations could be evaluated.

Figures 2 and 3, historic maps from 1856 and 1867, respectively, show that although there were roads and residences in the project region by the mid to late nineteenth century, the area surrounding the existing substation remained rural in character, and the centers of population were located to the southwest and east of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Figures 2 and 3 also show that this portion of Stratford was characterized by wetlands, marshes, and tributaries of the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound. The economy of this portion of Connecticut at that time was focused on a mixture of commerce, small scale agriculture, and local industry. As seen in Figure 4, an aerial image dating from 1934, agricultural pursuits in this portion of town were abandoned during the early twentieth century in favor of the build out of the city and construction of additional industrial buildings. At that time, the substation location was situated adjacent to southern edge of an existing railroad track that is now associated with Metro North. Figures 5 and 6, aerial images taken in 1965 and 1990, respectively, also confirm the developed nature of the area containing the substation during the middle to later portions of the twentieth century. Additional industrial facilities were constructed immediately to the south of the substation location, and the area acquired an overwhelmingly urban appearance by 1990. Figures 7 and 8, aerial image captured in 2004 and 2012, respectively, show the APE in its essentially modern state. The footprint of the existing

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P.O. Box 310249 • Newington, Connecticut 06131  
Phone (860) 667-3001 • Fax (860) 667-3008  
Email: info@heritage-consultants.com

## APPENDIX J - CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEW

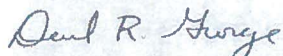
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substation and its proximity to the southern limits of the Metro North railroad tracks remained unchanged. Overall, this portion of Stratford has been well developed and as a result little unaltered land remains in the area.

In addition, a review of previously recorded cultural resources on file with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office revealed that no previously identified archaeological sites or National Register of Historic Places properties exist within the APE (Figures 10 and 11). Further, analysis of soils data for the area demonstrates that the parcel of land containing the existing substation and the proposed expansion area has been classified wholly as Urban Land Complex soils. These soils are generated as a result of cutting, filling, and smoothing. Consequently, no intact soils remain in the area. Given the lack of previously identified cultural resources in the area, the highly developed nature of the region, and the presence of disturbed soils throughout the proposed project parcel, it is the professional opinion of Heritage Consultants, LLC that the substation area and its immediate surroundings, retain little possibility, if any, to yield intact cultural deposits. As a result, no additional archaeological research is recommended prior to expansion of the existing substation facilities.

If you have any questions regarding this Technical Memorandum, or if we may be of additional assistance with this or any other projects you may have, please do not hesitate to call us at 860-667-3001 or email us [info@heritage-consultants.com](mailto:info@heritage-consultants.com). We are at your service.

Sincerely,



David R. George, M.A., R.P.A.

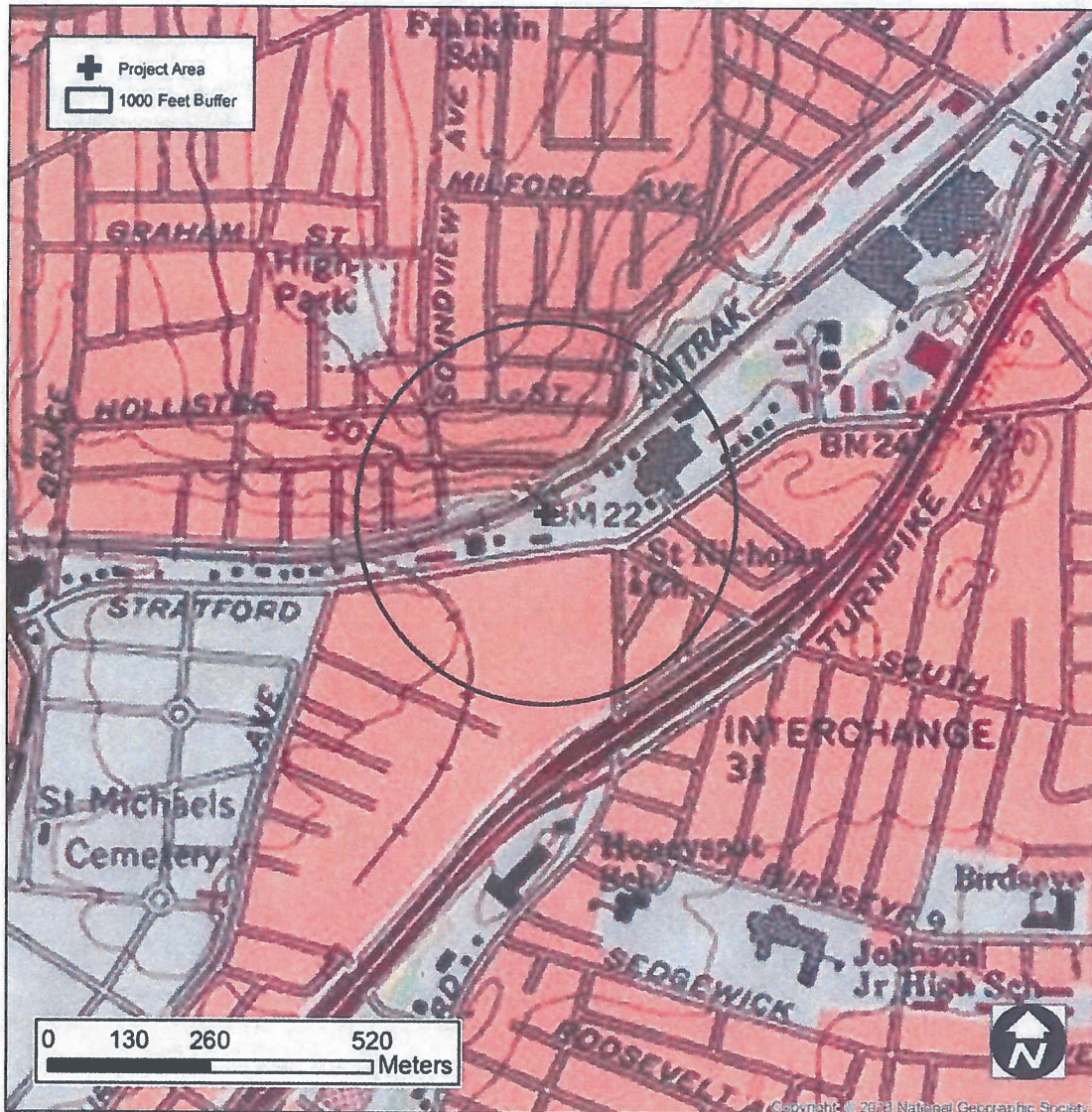


Figure 1. Excerpt from recent USGS topographic quadrangle map depicting the substation location in Stratford, Connecticut.



Figure 2. Excerpt from a 1856 historic map depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.

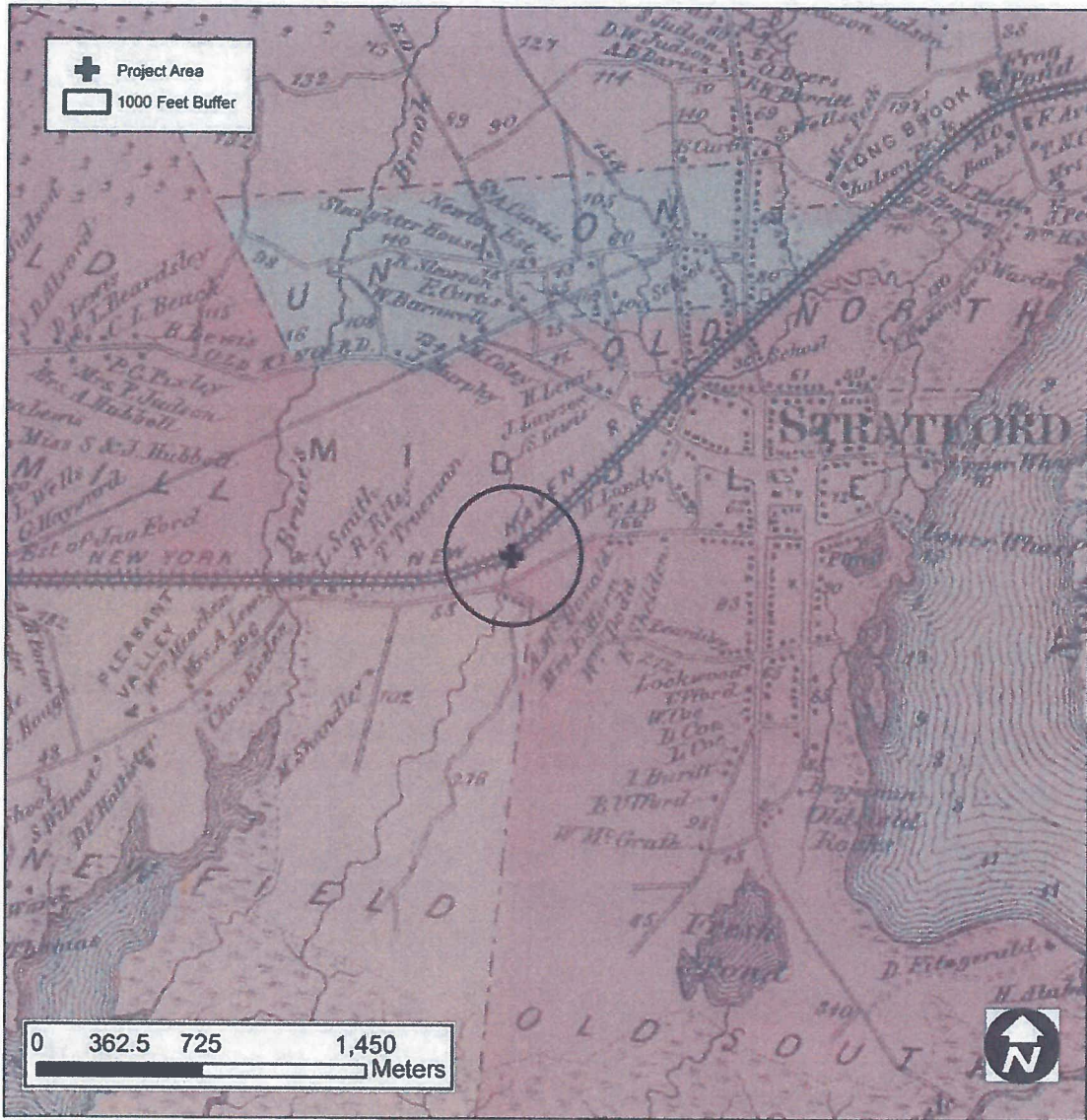


Figure 3. Excerpt from an 1867 historic map depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.



Figure 4. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial image depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.



Figure 5. Excerpt from a 1965 aerial image depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.



Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1990 aerial image depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.





Figure 7. Excerpt from a 2004 aerial image depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.



Figure 8. Excerpt from a 2012 aerial image depicting the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.

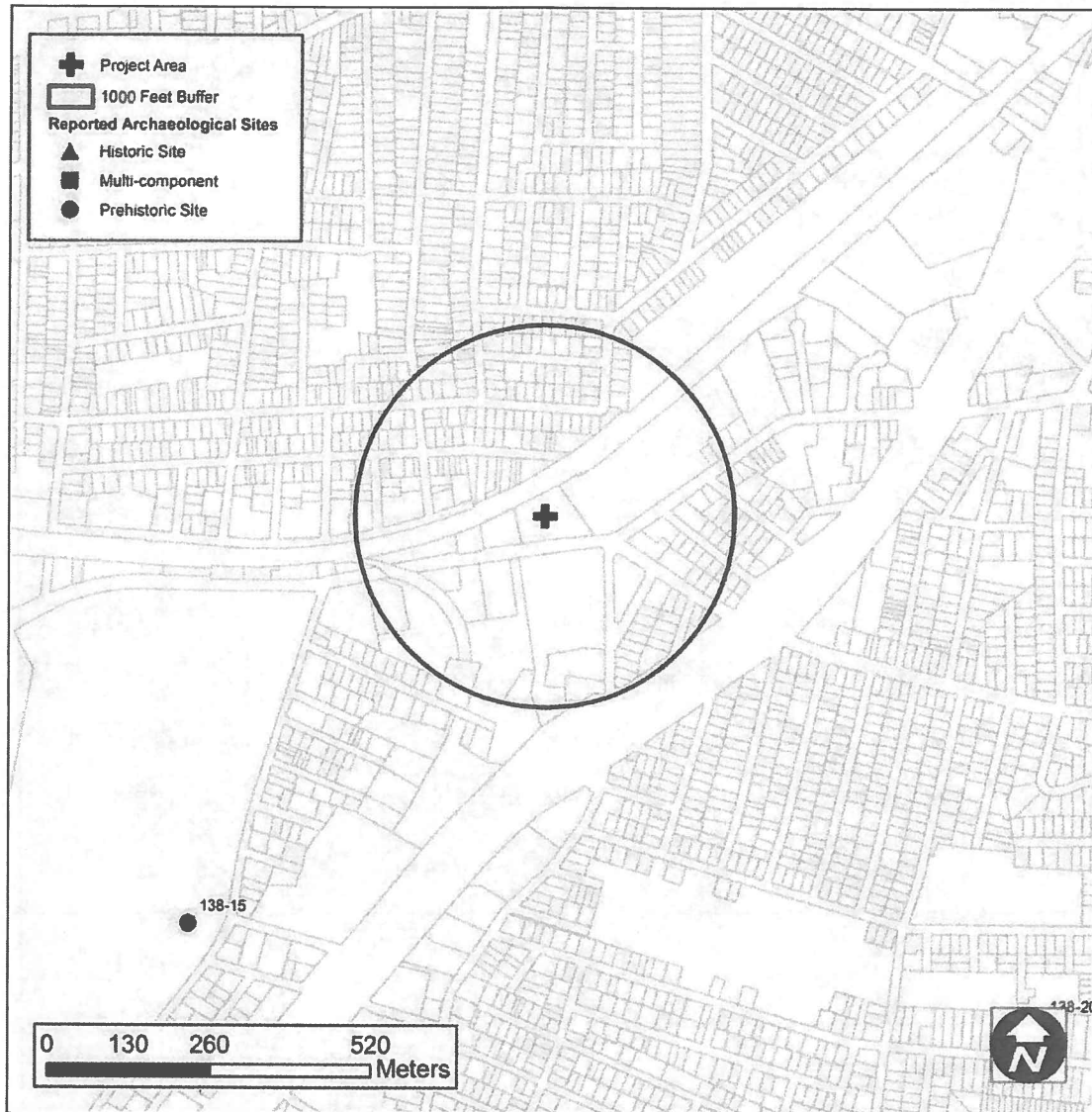


Figure 9. Digital map depicting the locations of previously recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.

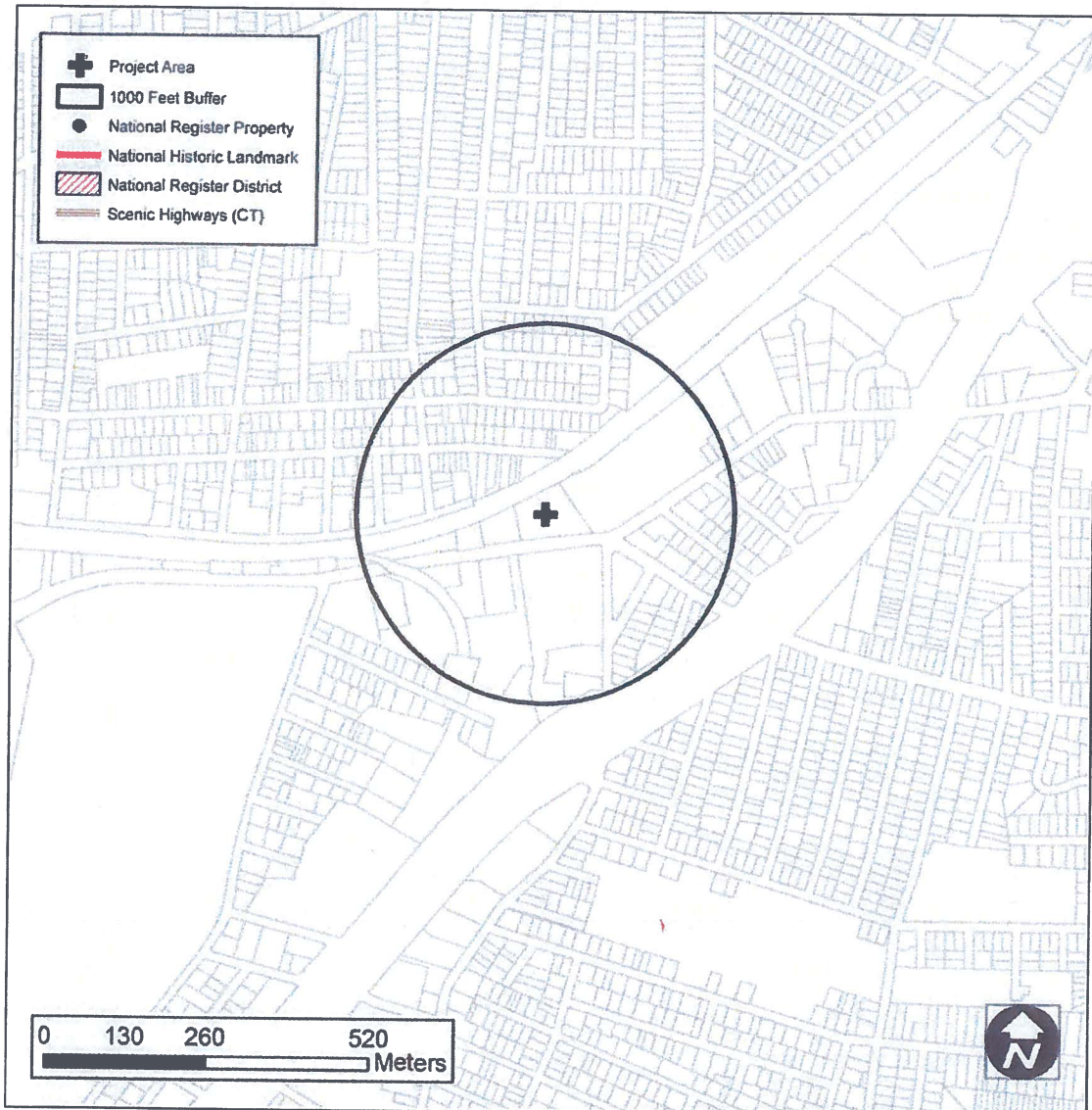


Figure 10. Digital map depicting the locations of previously recorded National Register of Historic Places properties in the vicinity of the substation in Stratford, Connecticut.