Appendix B
Phase IA Archaeological Survey
A Phase IA archaeological investigation was conducted for the proposed parking structure at 50 Haarlem Avenue, in White Plains. A previous report (Martin and Brosnan 2006) examined archaeological resources for adjacent properties and included an overview of the surrounding vicinity. This document provides supplemental information for the subject site location which was not examined in that report. The investigation and reporting were conducted by John W. Martin and Mark C. Brosnan.

The soils of the project area are mapped as Urban land (Uf), signifying that they have been subjected to varying degrees of disturbance and alteration from their natural state. In order to assess the likelihood for potential archaeological resources within the project area, historic maps were consulted as an initial step in the research. The earliest depiction located during the research for the project area is from 1867 (Figure 1) and reveals that the area of North White Plains was largely undeveloped, with a single structure represented along Broadway near the project area. The area remained undeveloped through the 19th century as shown in Figure 2. A later map illustrates the same level of development (Bromley 1910) into the 20th century.

By 1930, the block has been subdivided and additional development was beginning around the small farm complex (Figure 3). The farm complex survives into the middle of the 20th century (Figure 4), but was removed for the construction of the (now) Metro-North Railroad (MNR) building at 50 Haarlem Avenue/525 North Broadway in 1952. The building was expanded in 1984 and the current level of development of the block is present by 1987 (Sanborn Map Library 1987), and does not change through 1995. Included in the development that occurred is the existing parking structure that spans the southern half of the proposed location. The MNR building utilizes a boiler house immediately north of the parking structure that fronts Haarlem Avenue with a tunnel between the two structures.
In addition to the historic mapping, soil boring profiles were examined from a limited soil investigation on the property. One shows cultural material (brick and wood) near the surface, but due to its proximity to the boiler house and shed, they most likely are the source. The remaining seven have nothing noted. While the borings were small in diameter and not specifically intended to identify potential artifacts, significant archaeological remains could still be expected to have been noticed if they were present.

In summary, a combination of evidence has been employed to assess the archaeological potential for the proposed garage location. The project area is judged to have a low probability of intact archaeological remains. The site setting may have held the potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, but modern development (e.g., existing parking structure) and alteration of the natural ground surface has undoubtedly decreased any potential for intact deposits. Historic mapping does not indicate development on the project site until the second quarter of the 20th century. Mid-century development evidently removed the only structure(s) from the 19th century within the block. Based on the apparent absence of evidence for structures or other earlier development in the project area and the disturbance associated with late 20th century growth, it seems unlikely that proposed garage construction would have an impact on archaeological resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is recommended that no further investigation be conducted in association with the proposed project.
REFERENCES

Beers, F.W.

Bien, Joseph R.

Bromley, George Washington

Martin, John W., and Mark C. Brosnan

Sanborn Map Library


FIGURE 2

Proposed Metro-North Railroad Parking Garage
50 Haarlem Avenue
White Plains, New York

PROJECT AREA CIRCA 1893

Source: Bien 1893

Legend
General Project Area

Not to scale
October 2009
PROJECT AREA CIRCA 1930

Proposed Metro-North Railroad Parking Garage
50 Haarlem Avenue
White Plains, New York

Legend
Approximate Project Area

Source: The Sanborn Library, LLC 1930

FIGURE 3

Scale as shown
October 2009
Proposed Metro-North Railroad Parking Garage
50 Haarlem Avenue
White Plains, New York

PROJECT AREA CIRCA 1950

Legend
Approximate Project Area
Proposed Metro-North Railroad Parking Garage
50 Haarlem Avenue
White Plains, New York

PROJECT AREA CIRCA 1987

Legend
Approximate Project Area

Source: The Sanborn Library, LLC 1987

Scale as shown
October 2009