



To: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
City of New York - Landmarks Preservation Commission
City of New York – Department of Design and Construction
City of New York – Department of Parks and Recreation
CTA Architects

From: Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A. and Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A

Re: Phase IB Archaeological Monitoring Plan for Geotechnical Services as part of the overall John Bowne House Interior Restoration Project.

Date: April 1, 2025

On behalf of the City of New York – Department of Design and Construction (NYC DDC) and the City of New York – Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), CTA Architects (CTA) has contracted with Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Chrysalis) to undertake Cultural Resource Management (Archaeological) tasks associated with the John Bowne House – Geotechnical Borings Project, Flushing, Queens, Queens County, New York, a National, State and City Landmarked site (Map 1).

Geo-testing to determine groundwater and soil conditions around the John Bowne House before the finalization of restoration plans was archaeologically monitored in March 2025. Based on previous cultural resource archaeological work at the 1661 John Bowne House property, ground disturbing works could potentially encounter in situ archaeological remains.

Following the approved Archaeological Work Plan (AWP), Chrysalis monitored the geo-sampling work per the requirements outlined in the NYC LPC, *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City* (NYCLPC 2018). This AWP also conforms with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s “Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties” (36 CFR 800), the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA), New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NY SHPO) guidelines (New York Archaeological Council [NYAC] 1994; 2000; 2002), and the (New York) State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the (New York) City Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQRA).

Two areas were identified for geo-testing (Map 2). Area 1 was located at the rear of the house, positioned between the northeast corner and the driveway. Area 2 was in the open area south of the house, at the approximate centerline of the house.

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The first 6' of each area were hand excavated with a post-hole digger. Beyond 6', a drill rig was used to take samples in 2' segments extending to 20' below the ground surface.

Sampling in Area 1 (Images 1 and 2) encountered no impediments and reflected the general stratigraphic profile documented by previous archaeological work. Layer 1 was an AO horizon – medium loamy topsoil with organic matter transitioning into a 10YR 4/1 to 10YR 3/1 loam layer that extended to approximately 2' below the surface. This was followed by a 10YR 5/3 sandy loam layer that extended to approximately 4'.

At approximately 4', a distinct 10YR 5/6 medium sandy loam was present that turned lighter at deeper levels. The 6' – 8' core sample was a 10YR 7/6 compact sand with some silt. Deeper soils contained some clay. No cultural material was observed.

Sampling in Area 2 (Images 3 and 4) exhibited soils like those encountered in earlier testing. The first layer consisted of 10YR 3/1 sandy loam topsoil with organic material extending 2' below the surface. This was followed by a 7.5YR 4/6 sandy loam that extended to 6'. Between 4' – 7', rock and gravel were encountered. These appear to be naturally occurring. There was no grout or other indication that they represent a structure or other cultural feature. Approaching 7' below surface soils were coarser grain sand. No cultural material was observed.

The two core tests yielded no material cultural (artifacts) and/or ecofact (shells, etc.) remains and no evidence of any archeological features or other cultural strata (i.e. stratigraphic levels). A natural rock layer between 4' and 7' was encountered in Area 2. This is comparable to core sampling results in 2016. Though no cultural materials were encountered, the demonstrated archaeological sensitivity of the Bowne House requires that any below-surface work in previously undisturbed areas be subject to archaeological monitoring or testing.



Map 01: Topo 7.5-minute map for Flushing, NY (USGS 2016).



Image 1: Testing location north of the house.



Image 2: 6' – 8' core sample.



Image 3: Testing location south of the house.



Image 4: Soils from 4' – 6'.