

Section 1: Introduction

This report presents the results of a public archaeological study of a 0.39-acre portion of Block 587, Lot 1 (4.74 acres), in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey currently owned by the Trinity Episcopal Church of Woodbridge (Figures 1.1-1.3). The 0.39-acre area is hereafter referred to as the Study Area, which contains the Dunham House Site (28-Mi-220). The Study Area is located within the Trinity Episcopal Church (NR:5/12/2004; SR:3/8/2004) historic property. As a result, the project falls under the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act (NJRHPA) and requires an Application for Project Authorization (APA) under the NJRHPA, and, thus, falls under the review authority of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. (NJHPO). No additional local, state or federal permits were required as part of the completion of this study. The results of the study may be used as a planning tool by the property owner to preserve identified, intact archaeological deposits. The archaeological study was performed as a public archaeology research project by the Archaeological Society of New Jersey (ASNJ) at the request of the Middlesex County Office of Arts and History (MCOAH), which secured access to the aforementioned parcel from the property owner. In a letter dated August 22, 2019, the NJHPO approved the APA and scope of work for the archaeological study (Appendix A).

The purpose of the ASNJ archaeological study was to examine a portion of the former Kirk Green (western portion of the Study Area) and property historically owned by the Dunham, Van Horn, and Barron families (eastern portion of the Study Area). This study was undertaken between September 15 and 29, 2019 as a public archaeology endeavor. The Kirk Green is one of New Jersey's earliest meetinghouse town commons and one of few that remains largely undeveloped. This commons has the potential to provide important information about municipal land use from the 17th through 19th century. The eastern portion of the Study Area has the potential to provide significant information about 17th-through 19th-century settlement in Woodbridge and about the lives of the Dunham, Van Horne and Barron families. This study also incorporates data from a previously unreported archaeological study conducted by Monmouth University in 2002.

All artifacts recovered during the archaeological study were processed, cleaned, analyzed, and cataloged by the ASNJ. Artifacts associated with an intact archaeological site were curated in a manner that meets 36 CFR Part 79 federal guidelines. All artifacts and survey documents were transferred to the MCOAH with the report submission for permanent curation. The MCOAH has a curation facility that meets 36 CFR Part 79 standards. This study was made possible due to the generosity of Reverend Angela Cipolla, Rector of the Trinity Episcopal Church, and her family, as well as the Trinity Episcopal Church of Woodbridge, which permitted the ASNJ and Monmouth University to conduct archaeological excavation on Block 587, Lot 1. Monmouth University's previous investigation was facilitated by Father Robert Counselman, former Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church. The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Charles Tomaro, Kenneth Armwood, Charles Kenny, Leslie Koppel, Shanti Narra, and Blanquita Valenti approved funding the public outreach and education portion of this study. Mark Nonestied, Division Head of Historic Sites and History Services at the MCOAH served a crucial role in securing permission, support, and funding for this study. Mr. Nonestied and the staff of

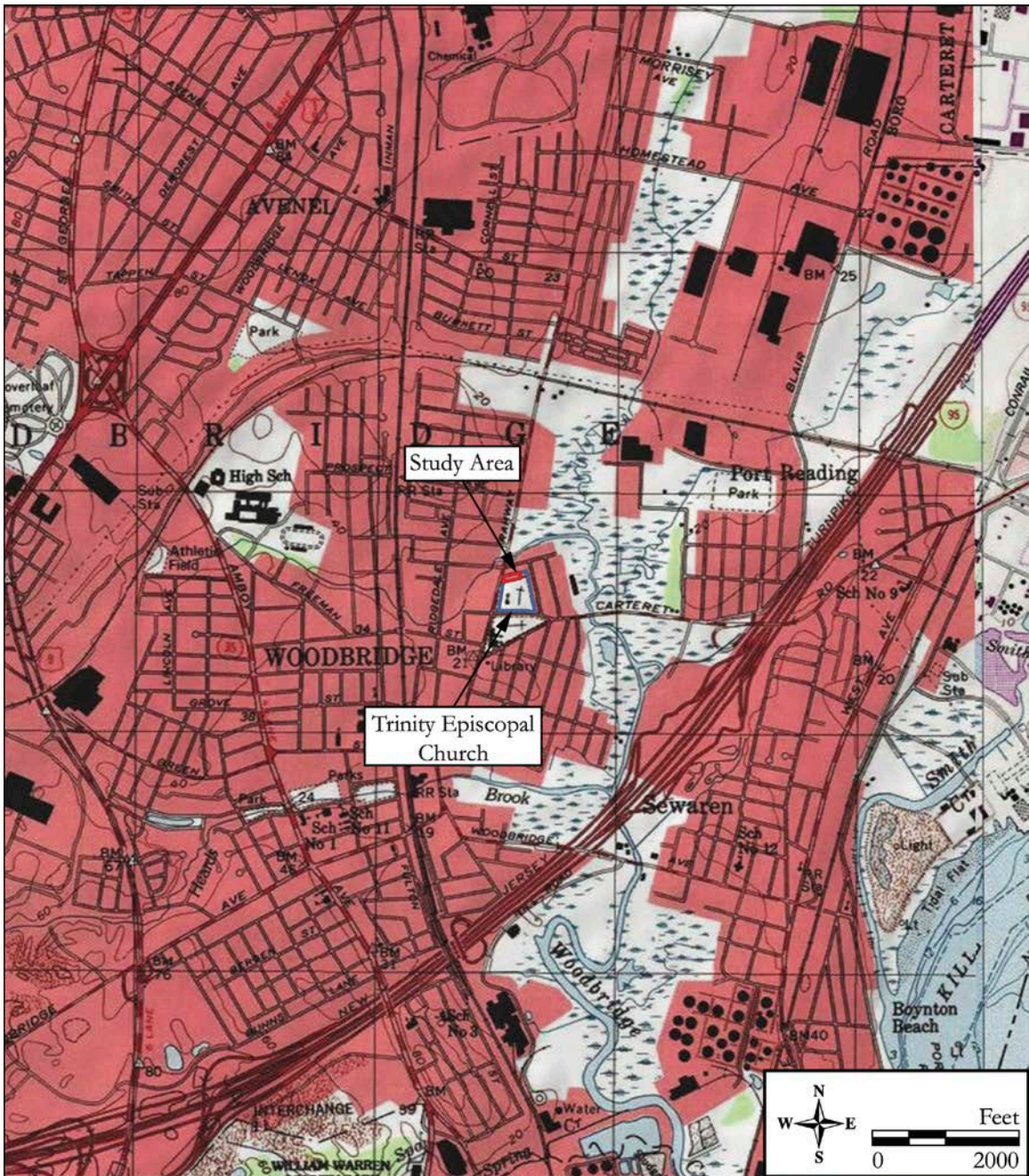


Figure 1.1: 1995 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle: Perth Amboy, N.J.-N.Y. Showing the Study Area and the Trinity Episcopal Church historic property.

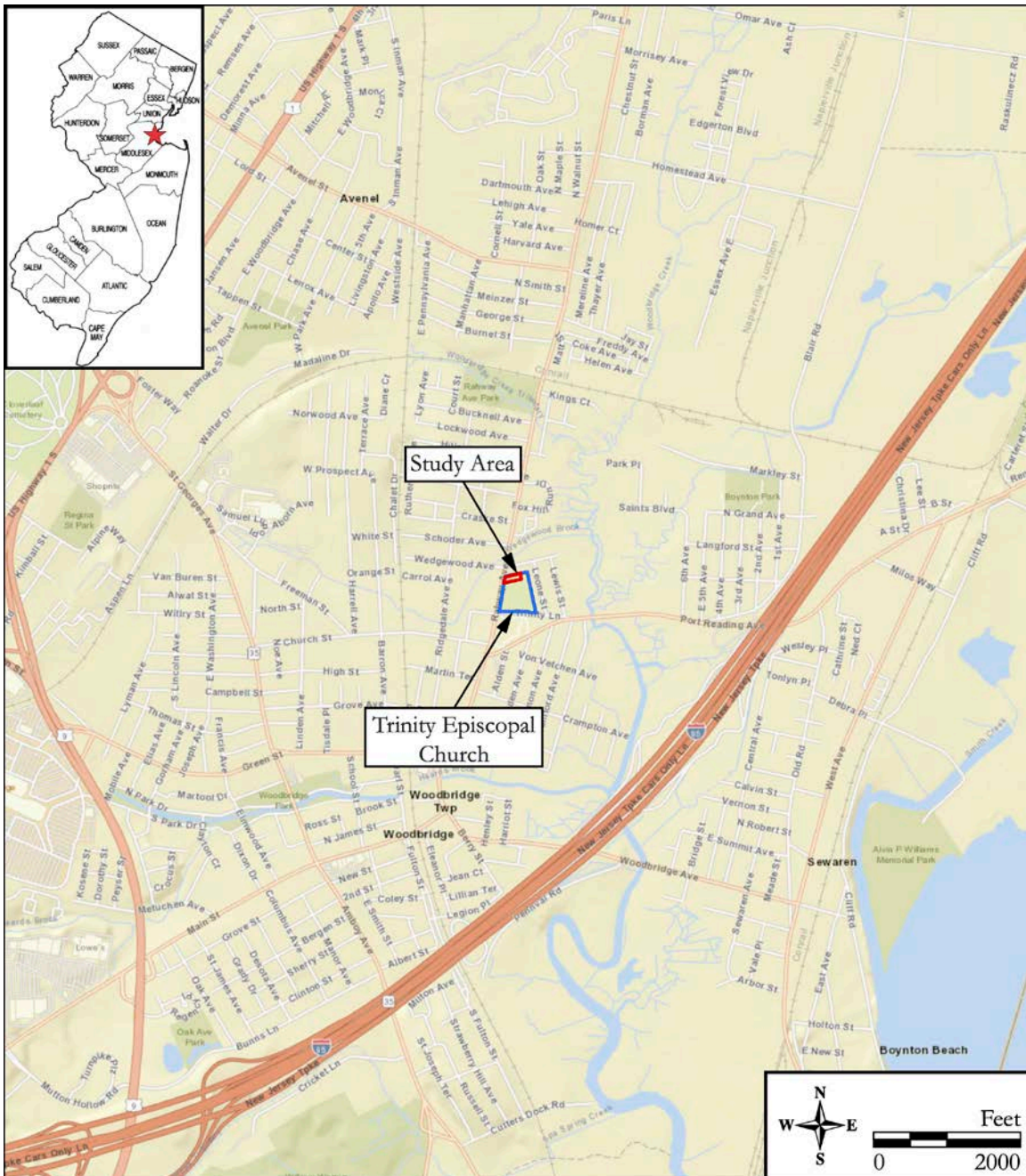


Figure 1.2: Street map showing the Study Area and the Trinity Episcopal Church historic property.

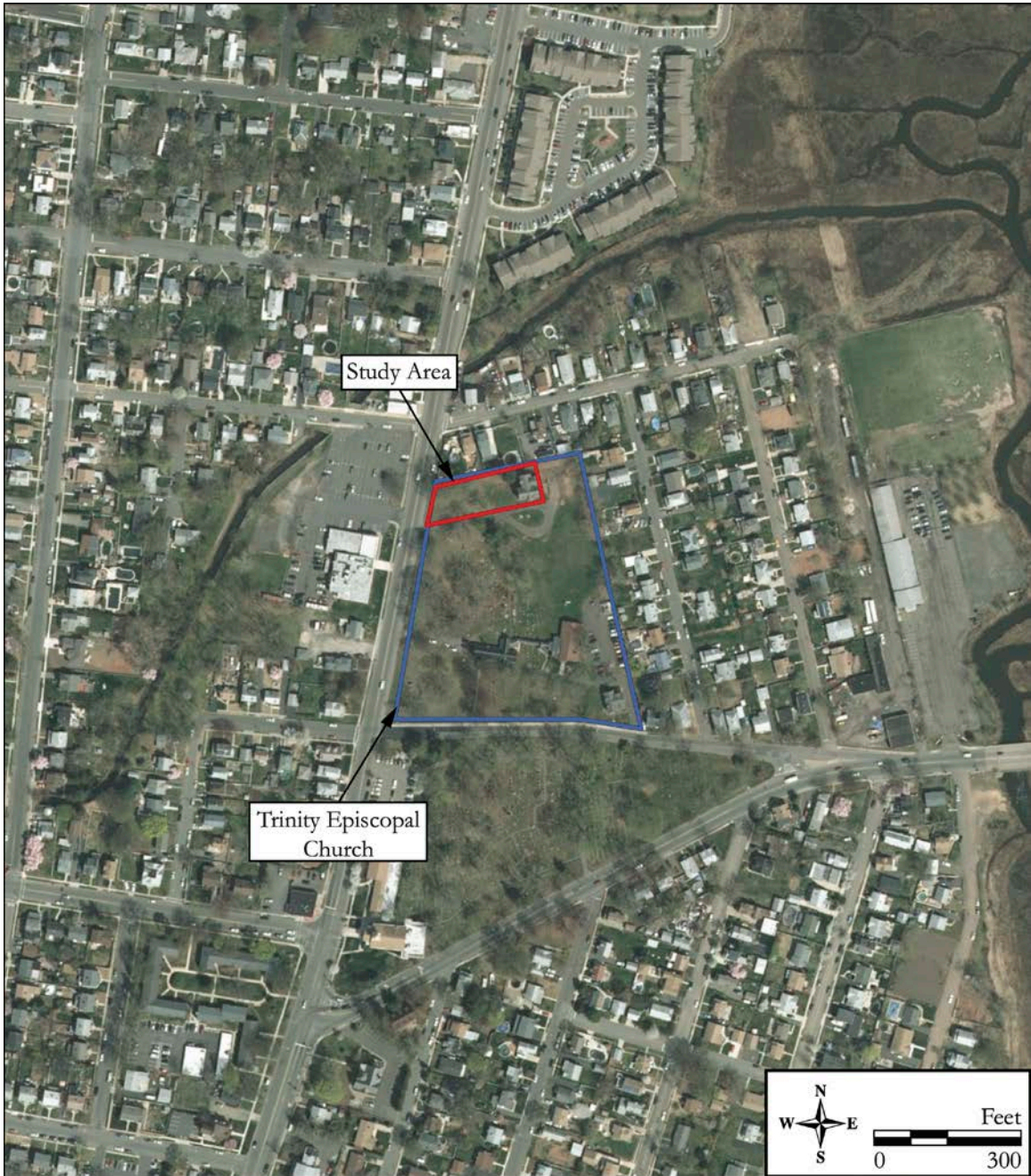


Figure 1.3: Aerial map showing the Study Area and the Trinity Episcopal Church historic property.

the MCOAH also led site tours. Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., Alice Domm, and Richard Grubb are thanked for lending archaeological fieldwork equipment, as is Monmouth University's Department of History and Anthropology. During the course of the archaeological fieldwork, tours of excavations were held for the public by the ASNJ, MCOAH. Approximately 36 members of the public participated in the tours on September 28 and 29, 2015.

This study was overseen by archaeologists Michael J. Gall, RPA, President of the ASNJ, and Richard Veit, Ph.D., RPA, ASNJ Bulletin Editor, who both served as Principal Investigator and Field Director for the project. Mr. Gall and Dr. Veit exceed the requirements of 36 CFR 61 (Appendix B). Michael Gall, Richard Veit, Richard Adamczyk, Sadie Dasovich, Rebecca Veit, and Tessa Gall performed artifact processing/analysis. Background research was completed by Michael Gall and Michael Moran. Report writing was completed by Michael Gall and Richard Veit. Allison Gall conducted artifact photography. Fieldwork and site tour tasks associated with this study were conducted with assistance from members of the ASNJ and the MCOAH. The following individuals are thanked for their assistance in conducting archaeological fieldwork:

Sadie Dasovich	Matthew Pringle	Douglas Veit
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Anthony Johnson	Michael Knezevic	Tina Knezevic
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Danielle Monopoli	Mark Nonestied	John Sauro
Rebecca Veit		

1.1 Concurrent Studies

During the course of the archaeological study, three concurrent studies were undertaken. These consisted of a dendrochronology study, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey, and an architectural recordation. The results of these studies are important for understanding the construction sequence of the Dunham House and former yard use areas near the house.

Dendrochronology

A dendrochronology study was undertaken to sample wooden and date beams to better understand building episodes within the pattern brick section of the Dunham House (Appendix C). Samples were taken from the first-floor joists and in joists in the attic. The joists on the first floor yielded a date of Spring 1709, suggesting that the pattern brick structure was built using trees felled that year. The joists in the attic yielded a date of Spring

1871, which corresponds with a massive remodeling episode completed at the end of the Barron family ownership period. The construction date of 1709 makes the Dunham house one of the oldest surviving houses in Middlesex County. The house is also distinctive as a fine example of pattern brick architecture, which is rare in northeastern New Jersey.

Ground Penetrating Radar

A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted in the side yard west of the Dunham House (Appendix D). The GPR survey identified a large, buried oval or circular drive in the west yard of the house. A geophysical anomaly measuring roughly 12 feet by 15 feet in plan may be present in the eastern-central section of the drive that may relate to foundation remains (Feature 6) identified in 2019. In addition, two anomalies were identified in the front or south lawn of the house that may represent former building locations. While the drive was identified as Features 3 and 4 during the 2019 ASNJ archaeological excavations and consisted of two layers of paved cobblestone, the two anomalies identified in the front yard were not archaeologically investigated during this study.

Architectural Recordation

Mark Nonestied, Division Head of Historic Sites and History Services at the MCOAH, conducted an architectural recordation of first floor joist and chimney locations within the pattern brick mansion section of the Dunham House, which is included in Appendix E.