

Internship ID# SM16ER

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Internship/Semester: Summer 2016

Internship Type: Non-Paid

Intern Level: Undergraduate, Graduate

Suggested Background and/or Knowledge

Area of study or interest in History, Anthropology, Archeology, Architectural History, Museum Studies, Social Studies, or Environmental Science.

NJDOT Division/Unit/Program Area Offering the Internship

Division of Environmental Resources—Project Support Unit

Description of the NJDOT Division/Unit/Program Area Offering the Internship

The Project Support Unit within the Division of Environmental Program Resources is responsible for completing state and federal environmental compliance documentation to obtain funding for projects initiated by various units within the Department of Transportation. As part of this process, archeological surveys are conducted by in-house staff and consultants.

Internship Location

NJDOT Headquarters
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

Internship Project Description

Intern will assist in research relative to the identification and evaluation of historic properties within the context of state and federal environmental compliance work for transportation projects such as the duration, maintenance, and disposition of data, artifacts and reports.

Estimated Project Duration and Suggested Weekly Work Schedule

Approximately three months, hours are negotiable.

Internship Learning Objectives/Marketable Skills

To gain an understanding of how archeological materials (artifacts; floral, faunal and soil samples; etc.) and other related data are processed once they are removed from the field. Students will gain practical skills necessary to work in an archeological lab and an understanding of experience in addressing issues pertinent to the analysis of data gained during excavations at the Beverwyck archeological site (see summary below). Time permitting, students will develop a research project and complete analysis of a portion (based on provenience, artifact type, historic/scientific themes, etc.) of the collection.

Intern will be trained in the following areas(s)

Intern will gain a broad knowledge of state and federal regulations and guidance pertinent to the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties within the context of advancing transportation projects. Intern will develop artifact handling and record-keeping skills required to process archeological materials once they are removed from the field—from cleaning and washing to sorting, cataloging and basic analysis. Focus will be placed on showing students how archeological materials, and the contexts from which they are recovered, provide information relevant to evaluating sites. Intern may also have the opportunity to focus on specific research questions pertinent to the interpretation of archeological features at the site, and may conduct additional research to support interpretations of function and definition of activities.

As project schedules permit, may participate in archeological survey and assessments of project impacts for highway projects. Intern will primarily work directly with NJDOT archeologists.

Summary of the Beverwyck Site

The Beverwyck Site (28Mr256) is a National Register-listed, 5.03-acre site located in the southeast quadrant of the U.S Route 46 and South Beverwyck Road intersection, in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township, Morris County, New Jersey. The site encompasses the primary occupation area of Beverwyck Plantation, a former 2000-acre estate with a period of historic significance that dates between 1730 and 1850. The plantation rapidly rose to prominence during the late eighteenth century, and at its height, its residents were a culturally and socially diverse population that included the families of an English merchant, a wealthy Danish West Indies planter, enslaved African-Americans, tenants, and indentured workers. During the American Revolutionary War, the plantation was a focal point in social, political, economic, and cultural circles of New Jersey. Noted late eighteenth century guests of Beverwyck Plantation include George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, Nathanael Greene, Comte de Rochambeau, Jean-Baptiste Antoine de Verger, Brigadier General Philip Van Cortlandt, Robert Erskine, Baron Ludwig von Closen-Haydenburg, and personnel of Hartley's Regiment. In 1803, portions of the Beverwyck Plantation were destroyed by a devastating fire. The reconstructed estate never regained its American Revolutionary War-era prosperity, but the estate was still regarded as one of the larger agricultural properties of Morris County well into the second half of the nineteenth century.

Archeological studies have identified and inventoried the subsurface remains of twenty-two structures and over 250 pit features at the Beverwyck Site. Although the site contains deposits that pre-and post- date its period of historic significance, studies have shown the best-preserved deposits and artifacts of the Beverwyck Site are those that are associated with its late eighteenth-

early nineteenth century occupation (i.e. ca. 1772 – ca. 1803). Specifically, the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century component consists of intact deposits that represent two primary residences, a residence for the enslaved laborers, a blacksmith shop, a distillery, a wash house, a dairy, a post-in-ground outbuilding, a small privy, a refuse midden, and several landscape features. Excavations of the aforementioned deposits have recovered over 100,000 well-preserved ceramic, glass, metal, architectural, and textile artifacts, as well as vast quantities of faunal and floral material. The recovered assemblages also contain a diversity of personal, household, agricultural, faunal, and luxury items, many of which exhibit distinct physical characteristics and/or possess contextual information related to cultural practices, religious traditions, dietary habits, ethnicity, and origin of manufacture. The archaeological material associated with the late eighteenth century enslaved laborers, women, and children that resided at Beverwyck Plantation is of noted interest because it provides insight into the daily lives of population groups that tend to be less represented in documentary records.

The Beverwyck Site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and D. The site is eligible for NRHP under Criterion A due to its role in the social and political arenas of the Northern New Jersey during the American Revolutionary War. The site is eligible for NRHP under Criterion D due its intact, well-preserved archaeological materials, in the form of deposits and artifacts, provide significant new information on details of daily operations of a mid-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century New Jersey plantation; daily, non-combat life and social activity in New Jersey during the American Revolutionary War; and details of the daily lives of ethnic and social groups that are less represented in New Jersey's archival record.

The Beverwyck Site was identified and evaluated for a NJDOT expansion of an existing park and ride facility. After detailed data recovery excavations of a representative sample of the site's significant components and subsets, the NJDOT opted to seek alternative locations for the park and ride facility due to the historic significance of the site. A Preservation-in-Place plan was developed and implemented in consultation with the NJDEP-HPO to protect the site.