

CEMETERY ARCHAEOLOGY



Sister Cities Plaza, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This project entailed Phase Ia, Phase Ib and Archaeological Monitoring. The project was located in a portion of Philadelphia's Logan Square. Phase Ia investigations identified the potential for paupers' graves and prehistoric archaeological deposits. The Phase Ib archaeological investigations were limited to areas that were to be directly impacted by the project. No prehistoric deposits were encountered, but more than 40 late eighteenth-century coffin burials were found. Analysis of the data indicated that, in most cases, proposed project impacts could be limited in depth and avoid impacting the burials. Consultation with project architects and engineers permitted a shifting of proposed utility impacts to portions of the property that had no archaeological potential. A Programmatic Agreement (PA) was prepared for the project that permitted the project to proceed. The PA outlined procedures to be used Archaeological Monitoring services were provided to ensure that no burials would be disturbed during construction.

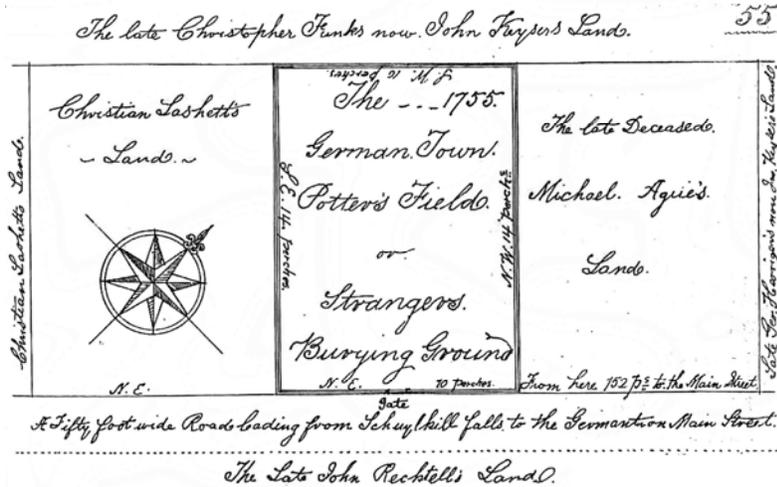
Lazaretto Redevelopment, Tincum Township, Pennsylvania.

The Lazaretto was a late eighteenth century quarantine station/hospital located along the Delaware River. The original buildings is still extant. Archaeology was performed in areas to be impacted by a municipal project behind the historic buildings. A part of this area had been used as a cemetery. Ground penetrating radar was used to identify the extent of the cemetery. Archaeological excavation defined the location of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century burials. The project design avoided the cemetery location.



Conrad Weiser Homestead, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Studies on this property were undertaken as part of an indefinite delivery contract with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Archaeological work was performed to support restoration of the mid-eighteenth-century Weiser house and conservation of Weiser tombstones. The archaeological work identified numerous early to late nineteenth-century activity areas around the house which had survived an early twentieth-century Olmstead relandscaping, but no mid-eighteenth-century deposits associated with Conrad Weiser were encountered. Other work on the property included the use of ground penetrating radar to identify grave locations and excavation by CHRS to permit the conservation of tombstones.

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Queen Lane Apartments Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Queen Lane Apartment Project entailed historical research, the use of ground penetrating radar, archaeological testing, and archaeological monitoring. The project was located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Phase Ia investigations identified the potential for paupers' graves in the center of the block to be redeveloped by the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA). Ground

penetrating radar identified a large number of subsurface anomalies indicating potential burial locations as well as building foundations and other archaeological features. The project was redesigned to avoid impacts to the potter's field on the block. Archeological testing was performed to both test geophysical anomalies identified by the ground penetrating radar as well as to confirm that no burials were present in areas of proposed boring and percolation tests. A number of archaeological features were identified. As project impacts were limited, archaeological monitoring during construction was identified as the best means of protecting significant archaeological features and identify any burial that may have occurred outside of the boundaries of the potter's field.

Stony Battery Road Improvements Project, S.R. 3017, Section 018, West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. During property research for right-of-way acquisition for a road widening project in Lancaster County, an anomaly was noted in the research. Historical research identified a historic cemetery that had been dropped from the deed description of a modern housing development. CHRS was tasked with determining whether any burials from this cemetery extended into the proposed widening project. The area along the outer edge of the proposed project was mechanically stripped and the exposed surface was carefully scrapped down by hand in an effort to discern the presence or absence of burial. A series of burials were identified on the edge of the proposed work. A minor redesign permitted the project to avoid impacts to the historic cemetery.

