

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Black Walnut Island 2
other names/site number _____
name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 13 Van Sickle Road not for publication
city or town Pine Island vicinity
state NY code 36 county Orange code 071 zip code 10969

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/ camp

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture/ Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: _____
walls: _____
roof: _____
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Black Walnut Island 2 is an archaeologically well-preserved example of a recurrent precontact Indigenous campsite located in the Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York. The site is 1.9 km (1.2 mi) northeast of the Village of Pine Island, New York. It covers a portion of Black Walnut Island, a landform encompassing a series of drumlinoid glacial outwash ridges adjacent to the Wallkill River floodplain. The site occupies the top of one of these drumlinoid ridges bisected by Van Sickle Road, which is accessed off Pulaski Highway between Sidoti Lane and Chiron Road. The site lies within the Wallkill Valley section of the Hudson-Mohawk Lowland physiographic region. This is generally a region of hills and till plains bordering on the Wallkill River bounded on the north by the Shawangunk Mountains. Black Walnut Island, like Pine Island and many others in this region, are called islands because they represent dry forested uplands within and bordering the “Black Dirt” or “Drowned Lands” of the Wallkill River Valley. The Black Dirt region is a fossil glacial lakebed that formed an extensive mucky floodplain surrounding the Wallkill River. This floodplain was drained for farming through an expanding series of canals and flood control dikes beginning in the early nineteenth century.

Narrative Description

Site Characteristics

The Black Walnut Island 2 site is distributed on 7.3 ac (2.9 ha) acres across the top and north-facing slope of a small upland drumlinoid ridge composed of Pittsfield gravelly loam. This soil type is well-drained, on drumlinoid ridges, till plains and hills of 8-15% slopes. The soils were primarily formed by glacial outwash deposition during the Pleistocene glaciation. They are well-suited to agriculture, which is why most of these landforms were primary locations favored during Euroamerican settlement. The ridge occupies approximately 16 acres, dropping off sharply to the north and east into the Wallkill River valley. The west end of the ridge slopes gradually into the Wallkill River floodplain or “Drowned Lands”, while the south slopes into a sandy saddle between it and another drumlinoid ridge to the south. The Wallkill River main channel is just 100 m (328 ft) northwest of the site boundary.

Archaeological field delineation by Tracker Archaeological Services in 2004 (Cammisa, et al. 2004) included 732 shovel tests at 15 m (50 ft) interval across a 65-acre project area. 171 positive shovel tests documented a combined precontact Indigenous occupation area of roughly 300 m (984 ft) long by 110 m (361 ft) wide encompassing 7.3 acres (2.9 ha) on the top and north-facing slope of the small drumlinoid ridge adjacent to the Wallkill River. Further site delineation involving 277 shovel tests at 7.5 m (25 ft) and 3 m (12.5 ft) intervals; and 19 1x1 m (3x3 ft) controlled test units recovered a total of 4,017 artifacts.

The investigations revealed that the site consists of an Ap horizon plowzone of 10YR3/3 dark brown to 10YR4/2 dark grey-brown silty loam up to 30 cm (12 in) in thickness. This zone contains a mixed occupation midden that accounted for the majority of artifacts. Below the plow zone is a 10YR5/6 yellowish-brown silty to sandy loam B horizon which preserves sub-plowzone pit features produced by the Indigenous inhabitants. Three of these pit features were documented by the investigations. These features represent sealed archaeological contexts with in situ tools, waste assemblages, and diagnostic artifacts. The recovered diagnostic projectile point and pottery types evince likely intermittent occupation of the landform from at least 3000 BCE to 1300 CE. Excavations continued through the 10YR5/4 sand C horizon but were sterile below the first 10 cm (4 in) of

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the B horizon *except* for sub-plowzone features. Artifacts in the upper 10 cm (4 in) of the B horizon outside of sub-plowzone features were generally attributed to deep plowing and root disturbance. Preserved carbonized botanical assemblages from the sealed features at the site included deciduous hardwood species like oak, maple, and hickory, suggesting the area was in an upland deciduous hardwood forest during the archaeological site's use (Cammisa, et al. 2004). This biome was in place in the region by the end of the Younger Dryas, c. 11,500 BP and continued until wide-spread clearing and cultivation by Euroamerican farmers beginning in the 18th century (Russell 1981). The site borders the roughly 26,000-acre "Black Dirt" floodplain of the Wallkill River. The Black Dirt is the remnant of a glacial lake that drained roughly calibrated (cal) 18.4 kyBP (Ridge 2003).

The middle Wallkill Valley remained a low-lying and poorly drained due to the resilient bedrock of the Wallkill River bed that resisted erosion. The region was a mucky, seasonally flooded grassland until it was drained in the 19th century (Eager 1847, Ruttenber and Clarke 1881, Headley 1908; Haysom 2016). During the archaeological site's use, it would have been a nesting ground for a host of turtles, fish and migratory birds and therefore targeted for subsistence exploitation.. Black Walnut Island, like Pine Island and many others in the region, were upland forested areas within and bordering the floodplain that offered ideal habitation areas from which to exploit these rich subsistence resources.

The Black Walnut Island 2 site is among the most studied and best-preserved examples of intermittently reoccupied precontact Indigenous seasonal campsites in the "Black Dirt" region of the Wallkill River Valley. While several similar nearby precontact archaeological sites have been documented in the New York Cultural Resource Information System (NYCRIS), few of them have been investigated beyond initial inventory. A few, however, stand out from limited excavations.

Another locus of the Black Walnut Island precontact site complex is the Lot 1 Locus (USN 07118.000510), located just 350 m (1,148 ft) east and investigated by Tracker Archaeology Services, Inc. in 2006 (Cammisa, et al. 2006). Investigations documented a Late Archaic (3000-1500 BCE) to Terminal Archaic (1500-1000 BCE) base camp occupation as well as a possible Middle Woodland sweat structure. Diagnostic artifacts included Brewerton, Vosburg, Orient, and Levanna projectile point types. Precontact features produced lithic reduction debitage, fire-cracked rock, and floral remains. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from sub-plowzone features. One returned a modern period date, while the other returned a date between AD 790-1000 (95% probability).

The Edsall Farm (ORA 9931) site (USN 07118.000294) is located on neighboring Pine Island, mentioned previously herein. The precontact site was inventoried and investigated by Columbia Heritage, Inc. in 1999 (Report #OR575). Surface reconnaissance, systematic shovel testing, controlled test unit excavation, and strip-trenching by Columbia Heritage, Inc. and later Gray and Pape, Inc., documented similar assemblages of projectile points and ceramic artifacts as documented at the Black Walnut Island 2 site. Similar Indigenous thermal and pit features were also documented. The site was determined to be National Register eligible based on these investigations. The site was later destroyed by construction of a housing development and the Millennium Pipeline.

Another precontact site complex across the valley to the north includes three National Register-eligible components: Grandview Site 1 & 2, and Lynch Avenue Site. The investigation of the Grandview Site 1 & 2 by Columbia Heritage, Inc. in 2004 (Report #OR498) produced an extensive lithic reduction assemblage but no diagnostic artifacts or features. Investigations of the Lynch Avenue Site in 2010 by Tracker Archaeology

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Services, Inc. (Report #OR656) documented lithic reduction assemblages and diagnostic Late Archaic (3000-1000 BCE) Sylvan Lake points from surface and sub-plowzone feature contexts.

Conditions and Integrity

The Black Walnut Island 2 site area is currently utilized as an agricultural field annually cultivated in corn or beans. It has been and continues to be impacted by over 200 years of farming. Though modern farming techniques employ no-till methods, past mold-board deep plowing has mixed the upper 30 cm (12 in) of natural A, E, and upper B soil horizons into a single Ap horizon plowzone. Below this plowzone are intact B horizons that preserve the bottoms of distinct pit features truncated by plowing. The site is not currently subject to erosion or flooding.

A small portion of the site has been destroyed by the cutting of Van Sickle Road through the drumlinoid ridge landform on which the site lies. This road construction is locally reported to have disturbed at least one Indigenous human burial. Further testing adjacent to the road by Tracker Archaeology Services documented no additional burials, but more may be present.

The Black Walnut Island 2 site has for many years been known to local collectors of Indigenous artifacts. Former owners of the property regularly “rented” the site to a local club for artifact collecting over the course of several years. Private collections from the site are widespread throughout the region. Impacts from this collecting appear to be confined to the Ap horizon. It is unknown how many subsurface features have been impacted by avocational excavation, but Tracker Archaeology Services investigations have confirmed that a sufficient number of archaeological features remain intact that have the potential to answer research questions related to precontact Indigenous history.

Previous Investigation

Although the Black Walnut Island 2 locality has been known to local collectors of Indigenous artifacts for decades, it was only recently professionally investigated, inventoried, and documented. The site was officially inventoried based on work by Tracker Archaeological Services in 2004 (Cammisa, et al. 2004). The Tracker investigations involved surface reconnaissance at a minimum 15-meter (50 ft) interval, 732 shovel tests at 15-meter (50 ft) intervals, 277 close-interval shovel tests of site areas at 7.5-meter (25 ft) and 3-meter (12.5 ft) intervals, and 19 one-by-one meter controlled test unit excavations. The investigated area totals an estimated 50 square meters. Encompassing more than 30,000 square meters, the site remains largely unexcavated.

The Tracker investigations recovered a combined 4,017 artifacts, including 3,759 pieces of lithic debitage, 73 finished lithic tools, 111 pieces of fire-cracked rock, 63 pieces of Indigenous pottery, and 11 chert core fragments. Most of the artifacts were recovered from the Ap horizon. By far, most artifacts were debitage related to biface manufacture. Recovered finished tools included 38 diagnostic projectile points including Late Archaic Poplar Island, Sylvan (Vosburg), and Normanskill point types, and Middle Woodland Jack’s Reef and Levanna point types (Ritchie 1971). Pottery fragments include Middle Woodland cord-wrapped stick impressed and corded motifs and Late Woodland incised motifs (Ritchie and MacNeish 1949). The pottery sherds were generally too small to confidently type but the analysis identified sherds that exhibited attributes of Middle Woodland Point Peninsula Plain and Late Woodland Kingston Incised.

Nineteen one-by-one meter test units investigated three sub-plowzone pit features. Feature 1 was determined to be a hearth measuring 0.04 m³ that contained 120 artifacts including a Levanna projectile point (Ritchie 1971),

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an unidentified projectile point fragment, and 2 unidentified cord-wrapped stick-impressed Late Woodland (c. 800-1600 CE) pottery sherds (Ritchie and MacNeish 1949), in addition to hickory nut shells, deciduous hardwood charcoal, unidentified mammal and fish remains, and fire-cracked rock.

Feature 2, in EU 17, was a basin-shaped refuse pit measuring 0.1 m³ that contained 23 artifacts including a Middle Woodland (c. 200 BCE -800 CE) Jack's Reef projectile point (Ritchie 1971), a Levanna projectile point (Ritchie 1971), unidentified mammal, turtle, and fish faunal remains, two deer metapodials and deciduous hardwood charcoal. The plowzone midden above and around the feature contained an additional 8 unidentified projectile point fragments, a biface, a preform, and 16 pottery sherds (15 unidentified pottery sherds and one probable Point Peninsula Plain sherd).

Feature 3 was a shallow thermal feature measuring 0.06 m³ that is possibly the base of a truncated hearth, including fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, mammalian faunal remains, and charcoal. There were no diagnostic artifacts in Feature 3. It is of unknown age.

Historic Context

The Black Walnut Island 2 site was reoccupied intermittently, likely seasonally, by groups that were indigenous to the Wallkill River valley. The site's artifacts and features evince three major periods of occupation.

The temporally diagnostic artifacts found on the site indicate that the earliest period of occupation was during the Late Archaic time period, which in this area of New York is dated from roughly 3000 BCE to 1500 BCE (Funk 1976). At Black Walnut Island 2, Late Archaic period artifacts include Poplar, Sylvan (Vosburg), and Normanskill projectile points from the Ap horizon context. No Late Archaic artifacts were found associated with the sub-plowzone features. During the Late Archaic period, the local environment was not much different than exists today. Archaeological evidence broadly points to an abundance of fauna and flora still prevalent in the region, excepting some species like elk which have gone locally extinct (Funk 1976). Land use during the period was seasonally focused on the exploitation of wild resources as well as opportunistic resource collection. Ritchie and Funk (1973) outline a "back-country" vs. "riparian" pattern of seasonal movement, focused on fishing and other riverine activities during the spring and summer, followed by fall movements to upland hunting grounds to focus on deer and nut harvest. Their ephemeral nature meant that most Late Archaic campsites are surface or open-air sites with only a few pit features and temporary structures, which contributes to the low representation of Late Archaic features at most representative sites. The Black Walnut Island 2 locality represents an ideal staging site for exploiting spring spawning runs on the Wallkill River, as well as for exploiting spring and fall bird migrations, fall nut harvesting, and deer hunting.

The second major period of occupation occurred during the Middle Woodland period, dating from roughly 200 BCE to 800 CE. At Black Walnut Island 2, this period is represented by Jack's Reef and Levanna projectile points from both Ap horizon and sub-plowzone feature (Feature 2) contexts as well as cord-and dentate-stamped decorated pottery from the Ap horizon. Modern Holocene environmental conditions continued during this period, broadly speaking, but Indigenous inhabitants increasingly relied on harvesting as a subsistence strategy during the Woodland Period. Harvesting focused on spring fish runs as well as fall harvesting of nuts, deer, and seed grains such as goosefoot, little barley, knotweed and lamb's quarters (Asch and Hart 2007). Seasonal site types included not only short- and longer-term camps but seasonally reoccupied base camps and workshops. Preparation and storage of harvested foods resulted in more frequent pits on most sites of the period (Ritchie and Funk 1973). The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced sealed sub-plowzone pit features,

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evidence of deciduous hardwood use for firewood, and the remains of deer, fish, turtles, and hickory nuts. Evidence for seed grains was lacking in flotation samples.

The final period of occupation evinced in the Black Walnut Island 2 site assemblage was during the Late Woodland period from roughly 800 CE to 1600 CE. Evidence for occupation during this period consisted of Late Woodland Levanna projectile points and cord-wrapped stick -impressed pottery from Ap horizon and sub-plowzone feature (Feature 1) contexts and Kingston Incised pottery from Ap horizon contexts. This was the period in which domesticated maize, and later beans, were introduced to northeast Indigenous people (Asch and Hart 2007; Hart and Lovis 2013). These crops would gradually become staples that largely replaced wild grains. With domesticates, seasonal labor needs for planting and harvesting shifted more emphasis onto long-term occupations where horticulture was a primary pursuit. Seasonal fishing and hunting locations, however, remained important places for supplementing horticultural diets (Ritchie and Funk 1973). No cultigens were identified at the Black Walnut Island 2 site during the archaeological investigation. This may indicate that the site functioned as a seasonal camp focused on hunting and fishing.

The Black Walnut Island 2 site possesses integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. It has archaeological integrity in the preservation of intact and documented archaeological features and deposits. It is among the most studied and best-preserved examples of intermittently reoccupied Indigenous seasonal campsites in the "Black Dirt" region of the Wallkill River Valley. Archaeological investigations have provided datable cultural assemblages that evince significant aspects of precontact Indigenous seasonal settlement and subsistence in the region during the Late Archaic (3000-1500 BCE), Middle Woodland (200 BCE-800 CE), and Late Woodland (800-1600 CE) time periods. These aspects are integrally tied to the habitation of the Black Dirt region of the Wallkill River Valley, a unique regional geographic feature that, due to its prime habitat for spawning anadromous fish and nesting birds and turtles, influenced the timing and nature of human settlement and subsistence exploitation strategies of this region. A significant portion of the site remains open to investigation to inform future research questions pertaining to this settlement and subsistence through the precontact period. Sub-plowzone features on the site may contain datable assemblages of faunal and floral remains that evince these changing subsistence strategies.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Archaeology/ Prehistoric

Period of Significance

c. 3000 BCE-1300 CE

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Late Archaic

Middle Woodland

Late Woodland

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is justified on the basis of the site's association with diagnostic cultural assemblages that have been chronometrically dated elsewhere in the region (Ritchie 1971; Ritchie and MacNeish 1949; Funk 1976). These assemblages are present at the site in both the Ap horizon and in contextually discrete sub-plowzone feature contexts.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Black Walnut Island 2 site is regionally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology /Prehistoric since it has yielded and is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. It is an unusually prolific and well-preserved example of a seasonally reoccupied Indigenous campsite within the “Black Dirt” region of the Wallkill River Valley. Archaeological delineation and testing of the site documented evidence for repeated reoccupation of this locality beginning in the Late Archaic period at least as early as 3000 BCE and continuing into the Late Woodland period, with occupation ending c. 1300 CE. The dating of these occupations is possible given the occurrence of diagnostic projectile point and pottery types that have been elsewhere dated by radiocarbon and stratigraphic position. These diagnostic artifacts accompany assemblages of lithic, pottery, bone, and carbonized food remains indicative of tool manufacture and maintenance, subsistence, and settlement activities. The evidence is derived from both an Ap plowzone and sub-plowzon pit feature archaeological contexts. Future study of this site has the potential to provide data relevant to chronology, settlement pattern, subsistence economy, and cultural change within the context of the Indigenous habitation Black Dirt Region of the Wallkill River Valley.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Black Walnut Island 2 site is significant because of its potential to yield important data for the study of Indigenous habitation in and around the Black Dirt Region of the Wallkill River Valley over a broad period of time (Criterion D). Through archaeological testing and analysis, it has been found that the site contains numerous examples, both in the plowzone and in sealed archaeological pit features, of diagnostic projectile point and pottery types chronometrically dated elsewhere in the Hudson Valley between c. 3000 BCE and 1300 CE. These diagnostic projectile and ceramic types can be temporally and culturally associated with faunal and floral assemblages from sealed sub-plowzone pit features that reflect the subsistence activities of the Indigenous inhabitants of this site locally and of the “Black Dirt” region of the Wallkill River Valley more regionally. Specifically, faunal assemblages contained white-tailed deer, fish, turtle, and avian remains likely harvested from the Black Dirt region. Floral assemblages contained charcoal of deciduous hardwoods likely available near the site, including hickory, maple, oak, ash, and black walnut as well as charred hickory nut shells.

These assemblages have the potential to inform research into the Indigenous settlement of the Black Dirt region of the Wallkill River Valley, a regionally unique geographic feature that supported unique opportunities for resource exploitation not generally duplicated elsewhere. The ability to date the discrete archaeological contexts related to these assemblages will reveal shifts through time in subsistence preferences at the site, potentially related to micro-environmental changes caused by climate, or perhaps changes brought about by human activity.

Precontact Indigenous Context

The Wallkill River Valley is chronically understudied when it comes to archaeological research. While many archaeological sites are known to exist in and surrounding the Black Dirt region, specifically, few of these sites have been substantially studied. For this reason, we rely on a broader interpretation of regional trends in precontact culture. Excellent summaries of these trends are provided by Funk and Ritchie (1973), Funk (1976) and Tracker (Cammissa, et al. 2004). These broad interpretations provide testable research questions for future study utilizing data from the Black Walnut Island 2 site.

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Following deglaciation, around cal 19.1 kBP (Ridge 2003) the Wallkill Valley was dammed by glacial ice forming a pro-glacial lake that persisted until cal 18.2 kBP. This event laid down the sedimentation that would form the Black Dirt region. Because the valley lay on erosion resistant metamorphic bedrock, this part of the valley remained a seasonally inundated lowland floodplain throughout prehistory. Its extensive grasslands provided ideal habitat for nesting waterfowl, while its marshy tributaries provided spawning grounds for anadromous fish and nesting areas for turtles. It was only drained beginning in the nineteenth century by Euroamerican farmers looking to take advantage of its rich soil for onion growing (Eager 1847; Rutenber and Clarke 1881; Headley 1908; Haysom 2016).

Evidence for the first human occupation in the region comes in the form of diagnostic fluted projectile points of the Paleoindian Period (c. 11,500-8,000 BCE). Finds of these points are sparsely scattered, suggesting a light settlement footprint by widely scattered bands of Indigenous people. Regional evidence suggests these bands subsisted primarily on the opportunistic hunting of caribou, mammoth, musk ox, moose and elk. Migratory caribou herds may have been tracked for long distances and intercepted at fording sites across the Northeast. (Lothrop, et al. 2016). Perhaps the best example of a Paleoindian habitation site locally is the Dutchess Quarry Cave site located 8.7 km (5.2 mi) west (Funk 1976)

With the end of the Younger Dryas around cal 11.5 kBP (Ridge 2003), Holocene hardwood deciduous forests broadly replaced older boreal forest environments, bringing with them to the Northeast more-or-less modern woodland flora and fauna. With these environmental shifts came changes in Indigenous settlement and subsistence strategies that are generally reflected in the culture of the Archaic Period (c. 8000-1000 BCE)(Ritchie and Funk 1973). The Archaic Period witnessed the shift to settlement strategies focused on seasonally abundant fixed (non-migratory) resource exploitation. Short and longer-term camps were the backbone of this settlement strategy, positioned to exploit seasonal abundance and moved as local resources dwindled. Ritchie and Funk (1973) have characterized a “riverine” vs. “back-country” pattern of movement to describe settlements of this period.

The Late Archaic Period (c. 3000-1500 BCE) is represented locally by several diagnostic projectile point types including Poplar, Sylvan (Vosberg), Normanskill and Lamoka. This period sees the intensification of these “optimal foraging” (Keene 1981) strategies to their most advanced level. Local bands moved seasonally within local resource catchments often returning regularly to the same localities for extended periods of time. Some of these localities may have even been improved with the use of communally built and maintained structures such as weirs and deer fences to optimize resource harvesting (Banks 1990). It does not appear that resources were gathered for long-term use. Rather, abundant resources were communally harvested by larger aggregations of related families, providing opportunities for social interaction and cultural renewal (Hayden 1996; Jackson 1991).

This pattern continued and intensified even further into what some have called the Transitional or Terminal Archaic period (c. 1500-1000 BCE). This period witnesses the introduction of soapstone vessels to the cultural inventory, an innovation that is believed to relate to processing and storage behavior. It pre-shadows the introduction of fired clay pottery vessels in the Early Woodland period (c. 1000-200 BCE). Researchers generally believe that Transitional or Terminal Archaic peoples were experimenting with intensive harvesting, food preservation and storage for use over the lean resource seasons of winter and spring. This led to longer and more intensive settlements at surplus resource extraction sites (Ritchie and Funk 1973).

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The Woodland Period begins with the advent of the earliest fired clay pottery in the Northeast, the Vinette I pottery type, c. 1000 BCE (Ritchie and Funk 1973). Pottery production is generally believed to attend a growing Indigenous emphasis on processing durable foodstuffs either gathered from seasonally abundant localities or grown at horticultural base camps, which could then be stored for long-term revisitation and use (Braun 1987). Such a strategy resulted in more intensive land use at seasonally reoccupied base camps where such foodstuffs were stored, evident in larger occupied areas, more substantial earth-fast habitation structures, a greater density of hearth and roasting features, and a greater density of sub-surface storage pit features. Food residues on pottery vessels evince the gradual increasing emphasis on fish and nuts for preservable oils and on dried grains such as goosefoot, knotweed, little barley, wild rice and lamb's quarters (Hart and Lovis 2007; Tache, et al. 2019).

The Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BCE-800 CE) is represented locally by more refined pottery types decorated with dentate-stamped, corded, and cord-wrapped stick motifs (Ritchie and MacNeish 1949). It is also represented by diagnostic Jack's Reef, Fox Creek, and Levanna projectile point types (Funk 1976). By the Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BCE-800 CE), the intensification of harvesting subsistence strategies produced an Indigenous settlement pattern that emphasized the base camp as a central focus of social and collective cultural activity, supplemented with seasonal short and long-term camps for hunting, resource extraction and processing. These base camps were often reoccupied over long periods of time, resulting in extensive areas of habitation and accumulation of substantial refuse middens. Middle Woodland base camps often exhibit a chaotic distribution of overlapping habitation areas, cross-cutting storage and refuse pits and multiple burial areas (Ritchie and Funk 1973).

The Late Woodland period (c. 800-1600 CE) is represented locally by Jack's Reef, Levanna, and Madison projectile point types (Ritchie 1971). Corded Oak Hill pottery types gave way to trailed and incised motifs on often collared pottery vessel types such as Chance Incised, Kingston Incised, and Deowongo Incised (Funk 1976). This period sees the local adoption of maize horticulture, though it is generally not known to what extent maize played a crucial role in Indigenous settlement and subsistence strategies (Smith 1992). Maize likely played a very minor role in subsistence strategies until very late in the period. Rather, it appears that maize was integrated into an existing horticultural strategy that included growing a variety of indigenous and exotic domesticates. However, Bendremer and Thomas (2008) point out that the importance of 'three-sisters' agriculture, and maize in particular, cannot be entirely characterized by its caloric contribution to Native diet. It had a significant cultural importance that should be considered.

The Late Woodland period ends with European contact, c. 1600 CE, which represents the initial contact between local Indigenous people and European settlers (Kraft 1991; Grumet 1995). This contact over time led to sweeping and significant changes in Indigenous culture brought about by new diseases, access to new technology, introduction to new worldviews, and shifting political entanglements. At the time of this contact, which first occurred in 1524 CE, the Wallkill Valley was occupied by groups of Indigenous inhabitants referred to as the Haverstraw and Esopus, Algonquian-speaking bands loosely allied by family and cultural ties with each other and to other local Algonquian-speaking bands like the Minisink, Wappinger, Havensack, Raritan and Navasink, among many others. These bands were bound into a loose confederation known as the Munsee during the 17th century (Grumet 2014). The Munsee, in turn, would merge into the larger Delaware Confederacy by the 18th century (Salwen 1978).

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Orange County is within the traditional homeland of three federally recognized Indigenous Nations: the Mohican People who are currently federally recognized as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, the Delaware Nation and the Delaware Tribe. The Stockbridge Munsee Community has a direct connection to the Munsee speaking Lenape people in this area during the early contact period. It is reasonable to assume a direct connection between the Munsee speaking Lenape people and the Late Woodland inhabitants of the Black Walnut Island 2 site.

Site Context

The Black Walnut Island 2 site is an intermittently reoccupied Indigenous campsite associated with extraction and processing of resources from the unique Black Dirt Region of the Wallkill River Valley, having produced evidence of Indigenous settlement and subsistence for three periods of occupation: the Late Archaic Period, the Middle Woodland Period, and the Late Woodland Period.

Short and long-term camps made up the backbone of Indigenous settlement and subsistence strategies throughout the precontact period and beyond. Archaeological evidence indicates that for much of human history in Northeast North America, hunting and gathering subsistence strategies prevailed. Small bands of related families moved together from location to location, cooperatively undertaking resource procurement, processing and social activities. By design, the camps were adaptive to unique local environments and social realities (Kelly 1995). Archaeologists have postulated that the development of “optimal foraging” and harvesting economies during the Late Archaic and Woodland Periods were integrated into stable traditions of mobile resource procurement within which camps played a central role (Keene 1981).

With the adoption of horticulture, likely during the Middle Woodland Period in the Northeast though direct evidence of such is currently lacking (Hart 1999), resource procurement camps were important for supplementing subsistence needs (Ritchie and Funk 1973). The long period between planting in the spring and harvesting in the fall created a lean season that had to be filled with subsistence activities at other locations. The variety of domesticates grown had to be supplemented with other sources of protein and fats. Even with the arrival of maize, beans and squash as major contributors to Indigenous people’s diets during the Late Woodland and Contact periods, mobile resource procurement was an essential activity. Camps of varying size, duration and function provided an adaptive settlement type to support this regular activity.

As such, archaeological sites representing Indigenous campsites are very common on the landscape. In fact, they are likely the most common Indigenous site type recorded. They have, however, been chronically understudied. Their variable and often small size, often low artifact density, and multicomponent nature make them unsuitable for addressing some research questions such as chronology and function (see Rieth 2008). Addressing research questions of broader settlement and subsistence patterns requires more intensive research to untangle the overlapping chronological and functional boundaries within these sites. Given the central place of this settlement type in the economic strategies of Indigenous peoples in the Northeast, a renewed emphasis on the study of campsites as a site type is needed.

The Black Dirt Region, in general, and the Black Walnut Island locality, in particular, offered a likely place for Indigenous habitation throughout the period of human occupation of North America. The roughly 26,000-acre Black Dirt Region was locally unique as a major nesting area for turtles and migratory birds in addition to being a spawning area for anadromous fish (Haysom 2016). The “islands” and upland ridges adjacent to the Black Dirt region were important to the Indigenous people as habitable staging areas for the exploitation of this rich

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subsistence resource area. It is thus not surprising that archaeological surveys of all these locales have discovered evidence of multiple and many times overlapping Indigenous habitation sites. The Black Walnut Island 2 site represents one of the best preserved and most potentially researchable among these many archaeological sites.

Research Potential

Only a small .1% area of the site has been investigated, producing evidence of a prolific plowzone midden and at least three sub-plowzone pit features. Diagnostic projectile points and pottery fragments from the plowzone midden evince occupation from the Late Archaic (c. 3000-1000 BCE) through Middle Woodland (c. 200 BCE-800 CE) and Late Woodland (c. 800-1600 CE) periods. This deposit, while not archaeologically discrete, is useful in providing temporal context to the discrete features at the site.

The discrete pit features are associated with tool assemblages, and sometimes with diagnostic artifacts and faunal and floral assemblages. The faunal and floral assemblages are potentially datable by radiocarbon and other chronometric methods. These age determinations are substantiated by the associated diagnostic artifacts both in the features and within the Ap horizon plowzone midden. These dates will help create a local chronology useful in refining the temporal placement of sites beyond the Black Walnut Island locality.

Since so little of the site has been investigated, and because the site retains integrity despite past and current farming, there is high potential for further artifacts and discrete features to be present on the site. Extensive excavations could potentially reveal dozens of such features, providing a rich source of data on the subsistence and settlement of this region of the Wallkill River Valley, and of the precontact ancestors of the Esopus and Munsee peoples that are the likely descendants of the site's inhabitants.

The lithic and ceramic assemblages manifested at the site are important for Indigenous material culture studies that seek to understand tool manufacture techniques as well as the social dimensions of form and style. Lithic source studies of the types of cherts in use at the site are important for delimiting the extent of local resource extraction and trade. The faunal and floral assemblages document subsistence activities and site seasonality. These databases are integral to defining local and regional settlement-subsistence systems.

The research questions that can be addressed by the Black Walnut Island 2 site fall into five topical areas:

Chronology: The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced evidence of diagnostic projectile points and pottery from closed, archaeologically discrete contexts associated with chronometrically datable materials. When and what specific activities were the Indigenous inhabitants engaged in at the Black Walnut Island 2 site? How did these activities change through time?

Settlement: The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced evidence of activity-related features that can be assigned specific functionality and perhaps even seasonality. These may also be associated with structures, though current investigations were not extensive enough to determine such. How did settlement at Black Walnut Island 2 change through time? Are discrete habitation structures detectable?

Subsistence: The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced evidence of culturally generated faunal and floral remains from closed, archaeologically discrete contexts. What local and perhaps non-local species were exploited by the inhabitants at the Black Walnut Island 2 site, and for what purposes? How did this exploitation

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change through time? While no direct evidence of maize usage has been found at the site to date, the introduction of the crop is believed to have had significant impacts (population size, settlement patterning, ideology, etc.) on local populations during the Late Woodland period (c. 800-1600 CE). This multi-component site with its pre-maize and post-introduction of maize occupations has the potential to provide data which highlights the cultural changes associated with the adoption of the important new crop.

Technology: The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced an abundance of Indigenous tools, tool debris and pottery sherds evincing production methods and techniques. How were specific tool types and pottery at the Black Walnut Island 2 site produced? What raw materials were selected for these tools and why?

Communication: The Black Walnut Island 2 site has produced lithic debris and tools of various chert types distributed throughout the local and regional area that attest to local raw material procurement as well as trade and exchange with neighboring Indigenous groups. Where did the raw materials recovered from the Black Walnut Island 2 site originate? How were they procured? Are these raw material sources local or exotic, and if the latter, what social mechanisms were employed to bring these exotic materials to the site?

Analysis of the Black Walnut Island 2 cultural assemblage in conjunction with the assemblages of other sites in the region may illuminate broader settlement-subsistence strategies and their changes through time, as well as changes in the faunal and floral make-up of the Black Dirt region itself through time. Were these changes the result of technological innovations or environmental changes? Of the latter, were these changes naturally occurring or produced through the impacts of changing Indigenous land use through time?

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.3
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.316018 | Longitude: -74.448493 |
| 2. Latitude: 41.318174 | Longitude: -74.447477 |
| 3. Latitude: 41.318513 | Longitude: -74.446301 |
| 4. Latitude: 41.315742 | Longitude: -74.447616 |
| 5. Latitude: 41.317150 | Longitude: -74.446438 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale. The boundary is the current limit of cultivated field, which defines the landform on both sides of Van Sickle Road. Van Sickle Road crosscuts this landform.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The site boundaries encompass the extent of artifacts documented from investigations. The site extends to the edges of the landform which are currently cultivated, beyond which slopes exceed habitable living space. The corner locations were established by GPS.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy J. Abel, PhD
organization _____ date 12/19/23
street & number 33512 State Route 26 telephone 315-486-0030
city or town Carthage state NY zip code 13619
e-mail tabel@twcny.rr.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Black Walnut Island 2
 Name of Property

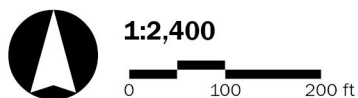
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CONFIDENTIAL: This map contains archaeologically sensitive information. It is not for public disclosure.



Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	41.318174	-74.447477	3	41.317146	-74.446446	5	41.316018	-74.448493
2	41.318513	-74.446301	4	41.315742	-74.447616			



 Nomination Boundary (7.33 ac)



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2021

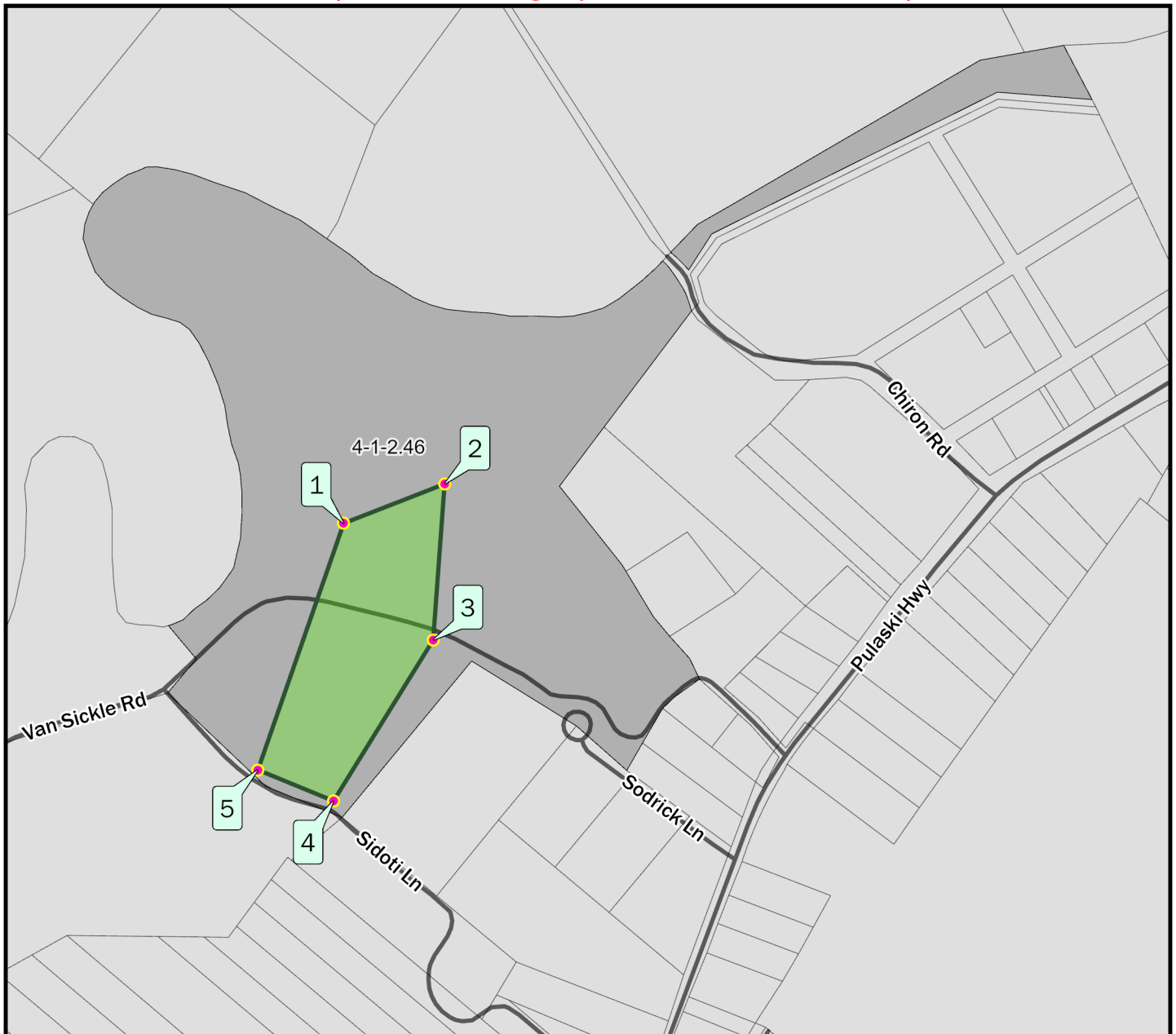
Mapped 02/23/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

Black Walnut Island 2
 Name of Property

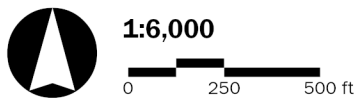
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Orange County, NY
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Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude	Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	41.318174	-74.447477	3	41.317146	-74.446446	5	41.316018	-74.448493
2	41.318513	-74.446301	4	41.315742	-74.447616			



Nomination Boundary (7.33 ac) Tax Parcels



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

Orange County Parcel Year: 2021

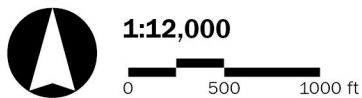
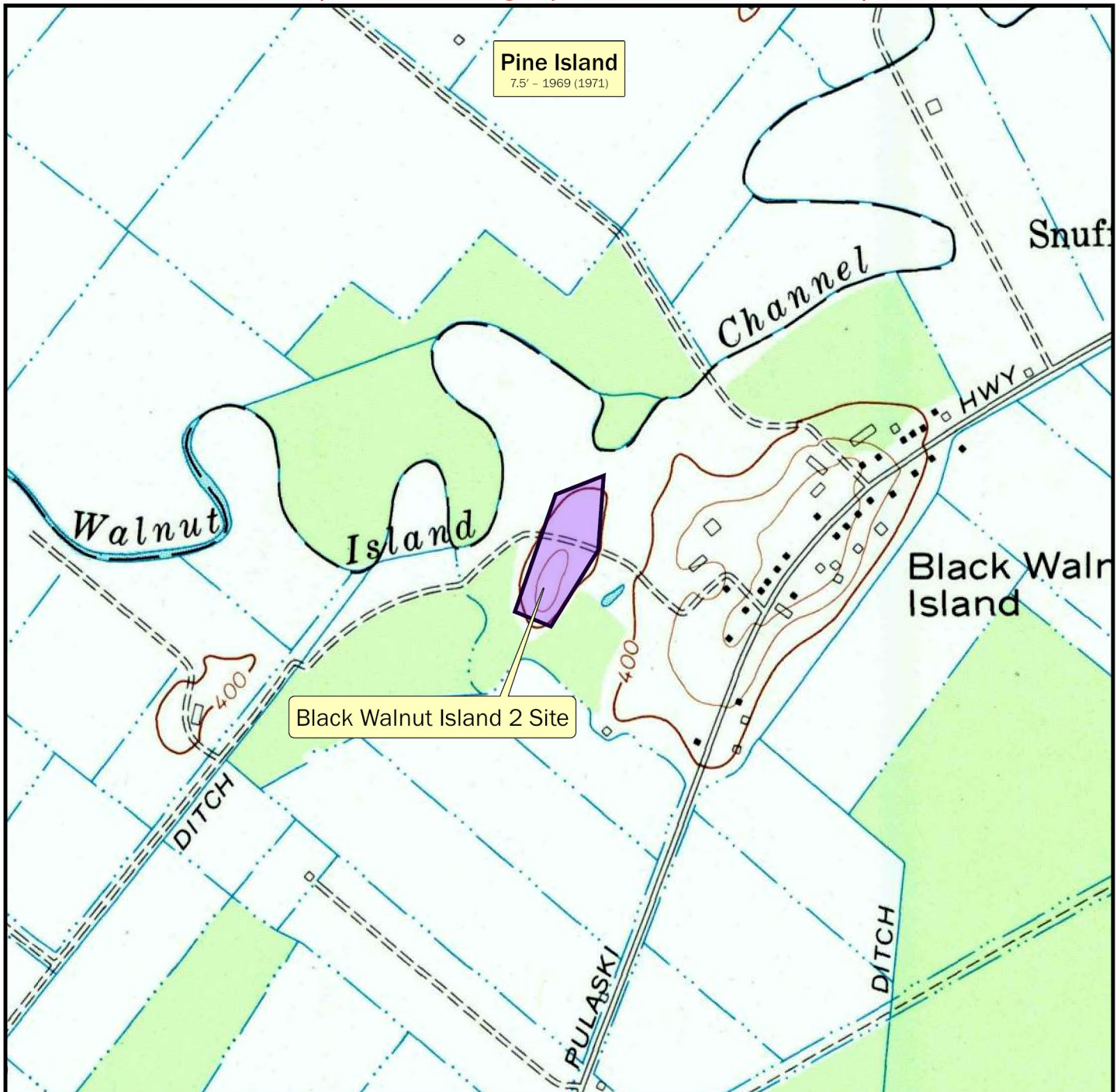
Mapped 02/23/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

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 Black Walnut Island 2 Site



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Figure 1: Photo Key



Black Walnut Island 2
Name of Property

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Orange County, NY
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Name of Property: Black Walnut Island 2

City or Vicinity: Pine Island

County: Orange State: New York

Photographer: Timothy Abel

Date Photographed: 5/22/2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

001 of 3 View Southwest



Black Walnut Island 2
Name of Property

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Orange County, NY
County and State

Name of Property: Black Walnut Island 2

City or Vicinity: Pine Island

County: Orange

State: New York

Photographer: Timothy Abel

Date Photographed: 5/22/2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

002 of 3 View South



Black Walnut Island 2

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Orange County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

Name of Property: Black Walnut Island 2

City or Vicinity: Pine Island

County: Orange

State: New York

Photographer: Timothy Abel

Date Photographed: 5/22/2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

003 of 3 View South



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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.