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December 15, 2017

Mr. Michael A. Trainque, PE
Vice President
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.
150 Dow Street
Manchester, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Trainque:

This letter report summarizes the results of the recently completed Phase IA Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment for the proposed Pump Station project in Allenstown, New Hampshire (Figures 1, 2). This study followed guidelines for archaeological surveys established by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), and was authorized under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), as amended, and as implemented by regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800). **This report contains confidential information and is not for public distribution**.

Methodology

This archaeological assessment included background research, visual inspection of the project area, and preparation of this letter report. Background research included review of previous archaeological studies in the vicinity of the project area (Borstel, Jacoby and Neumann 2002; Chan, Hutchins and Goodby 2011; Goodby 2010; Hannum and Wheeler 2003), archaeological site files at the NHDHR, historic maps (Figures 4-8), town histories (Mann 1985), and soil survey data. Visual inspection of the project area was conducted on October 23, 2017, and included observation of prevailing terrain and conditions, selective soil coring using a 1" diameter hand-held soil auger, and taking of representative photographs (Plates 1- 7). Matthew Labbe served as Project Archaeologist, and Robert Goodby, Ph.D. served as Principal Investigator.

Site Setting

The project area consists of the proposed location of the proposed pump station, a rectangular parcel 2,882 square feet in size, and an associated sewer main extending approximately 150 feet from the proposed pump station to an existing sewer main (Figure 2; Plates 1-5). The project

area sits on a generally level terrace on the south bank of the Suncook River approximately 3,000 feet east of its confluence with the Merrimack River. Underlying soils consist of Windsor-Urban Land complex, a well-drained outwash soil. Mill Falls, a natural waterfall, is approximately 1,000 to the west.

Although the project area is situated in a heavily developed area with a long industrial history, there was little evidence of historic and modern disturbance in the project area. The project area was dominated with large, mature white pines. Soil cores (Plate 6) revealed a developed plowzone across the project area, indicating it was once actively cultivated. Other evidence of historic and modern disturbance in the project area was limited to large granite sills dumped near the bank of the Suncook River (Plate 7).

Results

The Merrimack River drainage is known for the intensity of its occupation by Native Americans. Sites ranging from the Paleoindian period (c. 11000-10000 B.P.) to the Late Woodland (c. 1100-400 B.P.) are known from its banks and tributaries from the mouth of the Merrimack River in Salisbury, Massachusetts to New Hampshire's Lakes Region (Bunker 1994; Dincauze 1976; Goodby 1999, 2000, 2004). The only systematic study of Native America settlement in the Merrimack drainage found that sites tend to be within 1000 meters of rivers on terraces and deltas composed of well-drained soils. Sites also tend to be associated with waterfalls and rapids, and tend not to be more than 30 meters above the river in elevation (Kenyon and McDowell 1983).

While some areas of the Merrimack watershed have been the focus of extensive archaeological research over many decades, relatively little work has been done on the Suncook or its tributaries (Chan, Hutchins, and Goodby 2011). There are only ten Native American sites in the Suncook River drainage that have been assigned site numbers in the site files of the NHDHR, most of which are in very close proximity, and on the same landform, as the project area (Figure 4, Table 1). Of these, four of these (27MR90, 27MR91, 27MR92, 27MR96) are locations where the late Solon Colby collected artifacts (Colby 1975), and little information is available in the site files about what was found there (Colby 1975, Berry 1937). This concentration of Native American sites on a level terrace close to a major river confluence is consistent with known patterns of Native American site distribution detailed by Kenyon and McDowell (1983); such locations are known to be some of the most archaeologically sensitive in all of New Hampshire.

The Euroamerican history of the project area vicinity dates to the early 18th century when a petition was granted for that tract of land, at first called Suncook Plantation, that would eventually become the towns of Allenstown, Hookset, and Bow, although Allenstown was not incorporated as a separate town until 1831. The land was divided into lots in 1730 – Lot Number One being essentially the entirety of Suncook Village. The committee that determined the division of lots agreed that Lot Number One, because of its excellent situation on the river, ought to be given to any person who would agree to build at least a saw and a grist mill to enable people to settle and develop the town (Mann 1985:1). That person was John Cochran (sometimes spelled Coffrin or Cofran), who built Suncook's first mills, and began what would eventually come to characterize the town and its economy – the milling industry.

Suncook was incorporated into the town of Pembroke in 1759, and Lot Number One underwent a series of divisions, sales, and inheritances over the course of the next 150 years. While the town was still largely agrarian in the 18th century, focusing on sheep and subsistence farming, by the 19th century the economy was making a marked shift toward industry. At first it was saw and grist mills that dominated the milling landscape, but by circa 1810, the "concentration of production shifted…from flour and wood to paper" (Mann 1985:3). Many mills were actually converted from their original purpose to paper production.

By the time of the Civil War, the focus had changed again, from paper to textile production, especially cotton. The textile industry ushered in Pembroke and Allenstown's most prosperous era. Alongside paper and cotton, however, were numerous brickyards, and with the coming of the railroad in the 1850s, Pembroke's transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy was nearly complete. The importance of Suncook Village as the "hub" of the town's economic as well as social and cultural activities grew substantially in the late 19th century (Mann 1985:4). By the time of the Civil War, Mann states, mills "crowded" (1985:5) the banks of the Suncook River, as did housing for the millworkers, and shops, taverns, and hotels to serve the growing population. The years following the Civil War were a time of exponential growth. Webster Mills was incorporated in 1862, and China Mills, on the Allenstown side of the river approximately 800 feet west of the project area, in 1867. These were huge corporations with capacity to employ 1500 workers, and they turned Suncook Village into a busy commercial and industrial center.

As in many mill towns in New England, labor was largely imported. In Pembroke and Allenstown, the labor was overwhelmingly French Canadian. The French had long been employed in the brickyards, but with the growth of the mills and poor employment opportunities continuing in Canada at that time, they quickly came to meet the labor demands of the mills as well, which profoundly changed the cultural landscape of Suncook Village in the last decades of the 19th century, and built a chasm between it and the rural surrounding town of Pembroke, which remained Protestant and English-speaking. By 1885, in fact, says Mann, no English was spoken in the Village at all (1985:6). French shop owners, French saloons, French barbers and bakers, French-speaking schools all serviced the immigrant community.

The Great Depression of the 1930s, however, affected Suncook Village's prosperity profoundly, and in many ways, irreparably. The mills began to fail, and many sold out to Textron Manufacturing Company, which had bought up many of New England's failing textile mills, and begun to make parachute cloth in Suncook Village (Mann 1985:8). With work drying up, so too did the population, and by the end of the Second World War, there were hardly any French Canadians in town anymore, and the industrial area of Pembroke and Allenstown area entered a long period of decay and economic decline.

Despite its proximity to the industrial heart of Allenstown and Pembroke, there is relatively little evidence of this activity in the project area, and little evidence of disturbance apart from plowing. Historic maps (Figures 4-8) do not indicate any structures in the immediate vicinity of the project are in the 19th or 20th centuries. As a result, significant historic archaeological resources are not expected to occur here.

Summary and Recommendations

Background research and a visual inspection were conducted as part of the archaeological assessment for the proposed Pump Station project in Allenstown, New Hampshire. This indicated that the project area is in an area of high sensitivity for Native American sites, with a number of previously recorded sites in close proximity. A Phase IB Intensive Archaeological Investigation, including excavation of approximately 15 shovel test pits on an eight-meter interval grid within the area of the proposed pump station, and on a single transect along the route of the proposed sewer main, is recommended for the project area.

Robert G. Goodby, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

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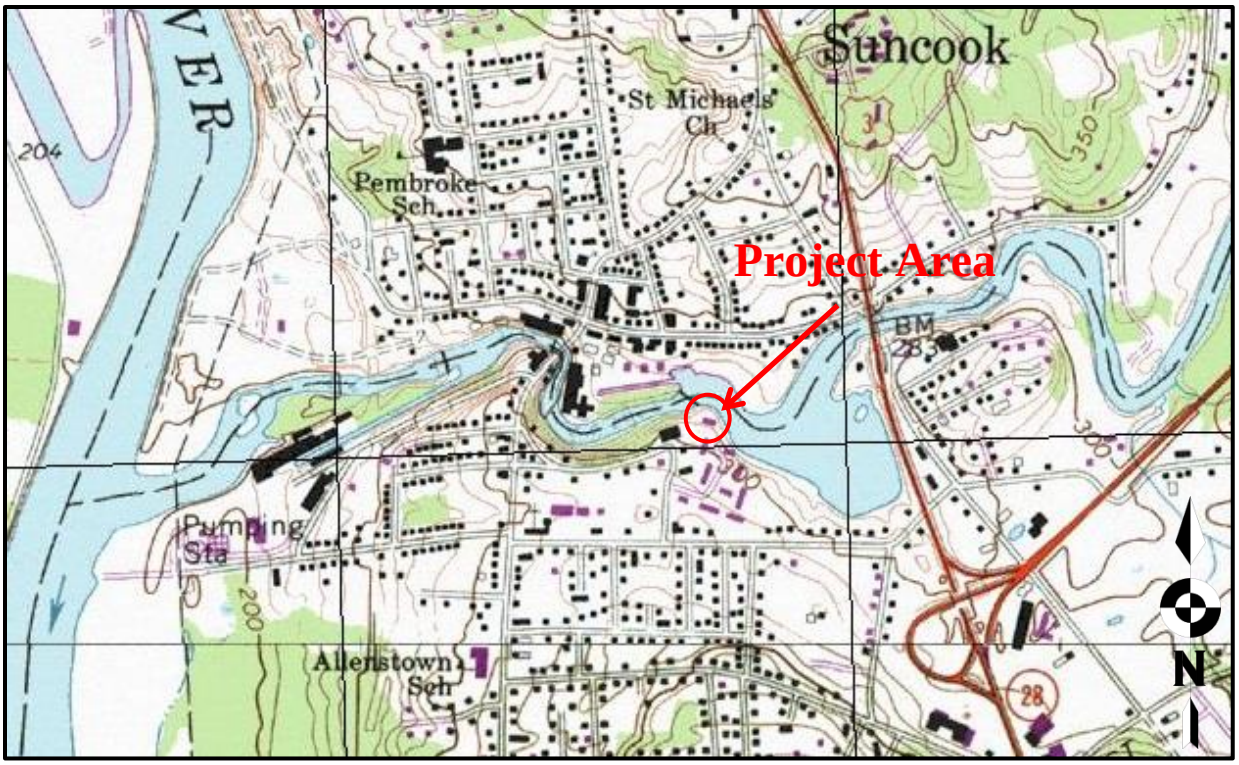

Figure 1. Project Area on USGS Suncook Quadrangle (1:24,000)

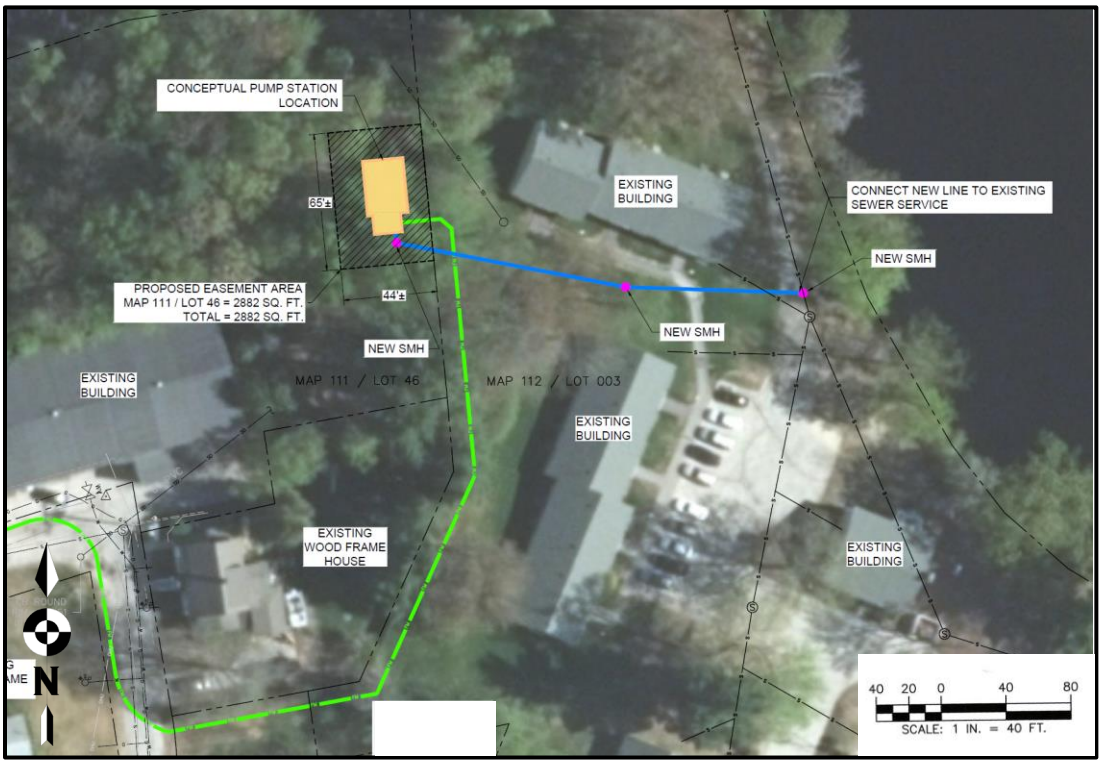

Figure 2. Project Plans on Aerial Photograph

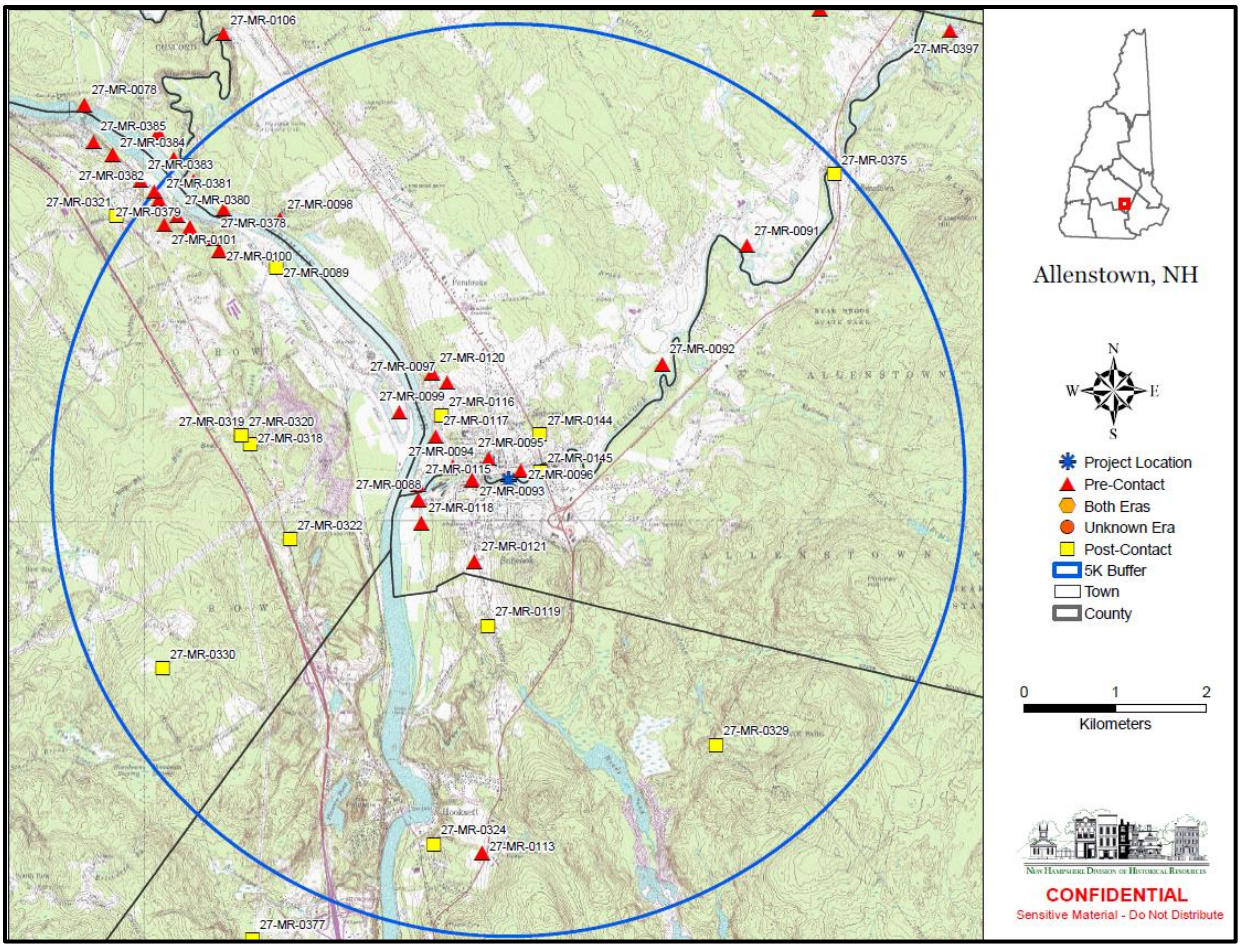

Figure 3. Project Area on NHDHR Site File Map

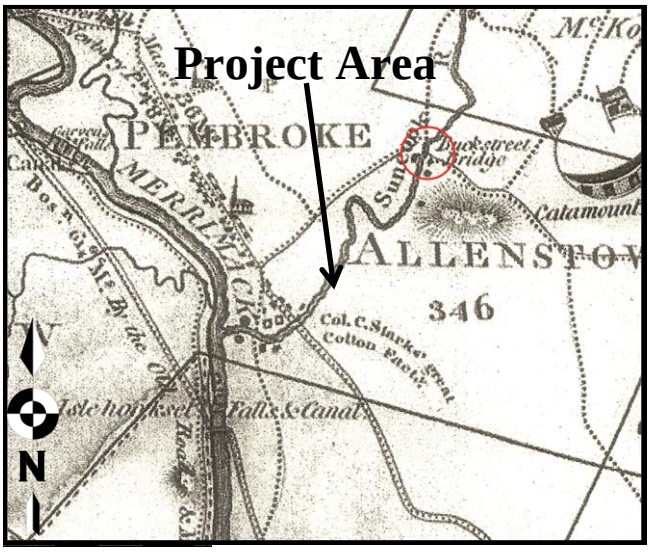

Figure 4. Location of the Project Area on an 1816 Map of Pembroke (Carrigain 1816). (Approximate Scale 1" = 3000')

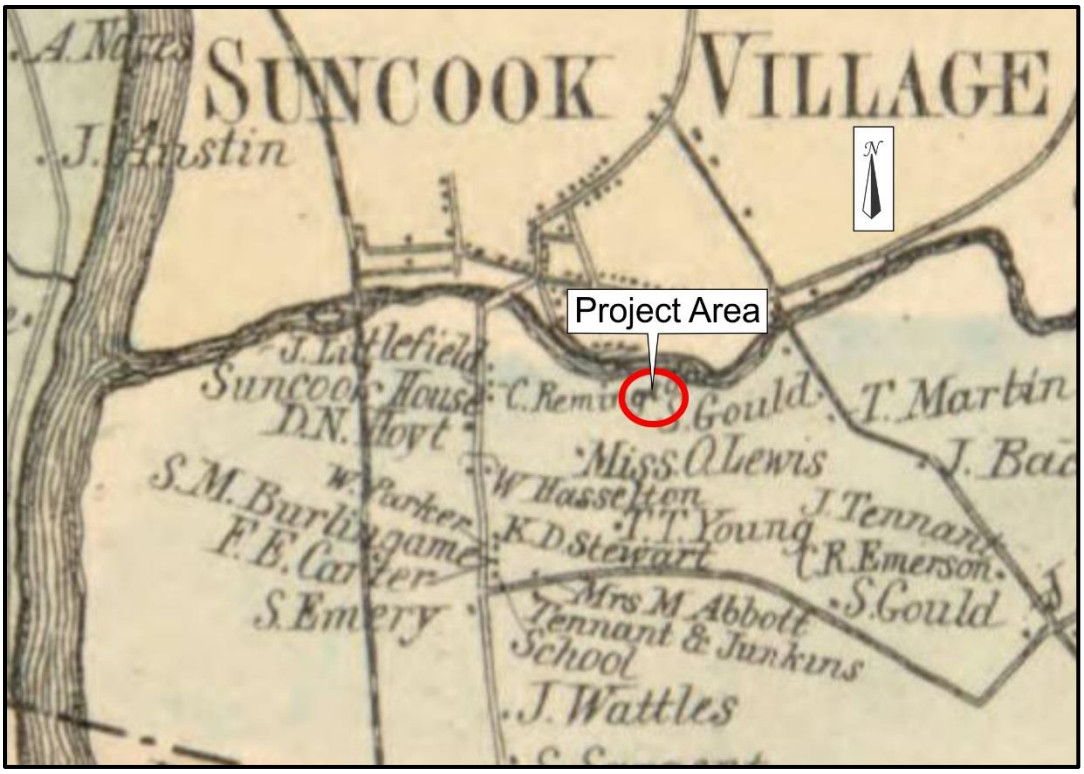

Figure 5. Project Area on 1858 Map of Allenstown (Walling 1858; Approximate Scale 1' = 1300')

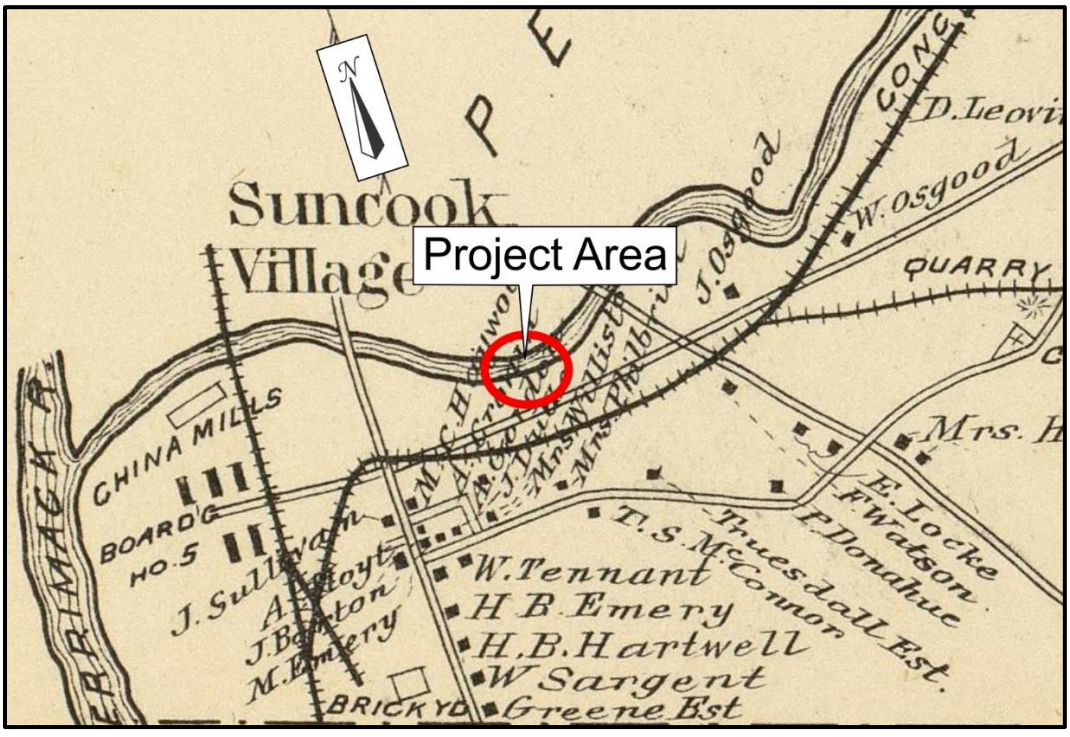

Figure 6. Project Area on 1892 Map of Allenstown (Approximate Scale 1" = 1400 '; Hurd, 1892)

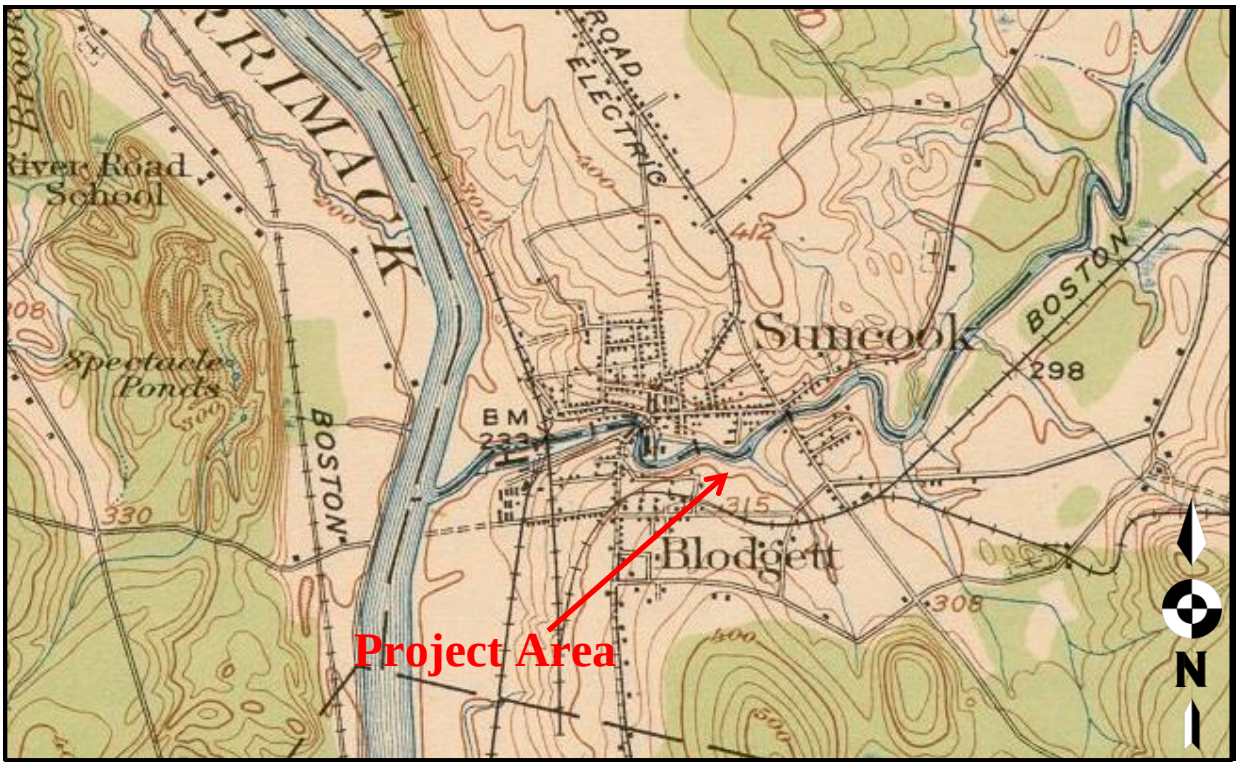

Figure 7. Project Area on USGS 1921 Suncook Quadrangle (1:62,500)

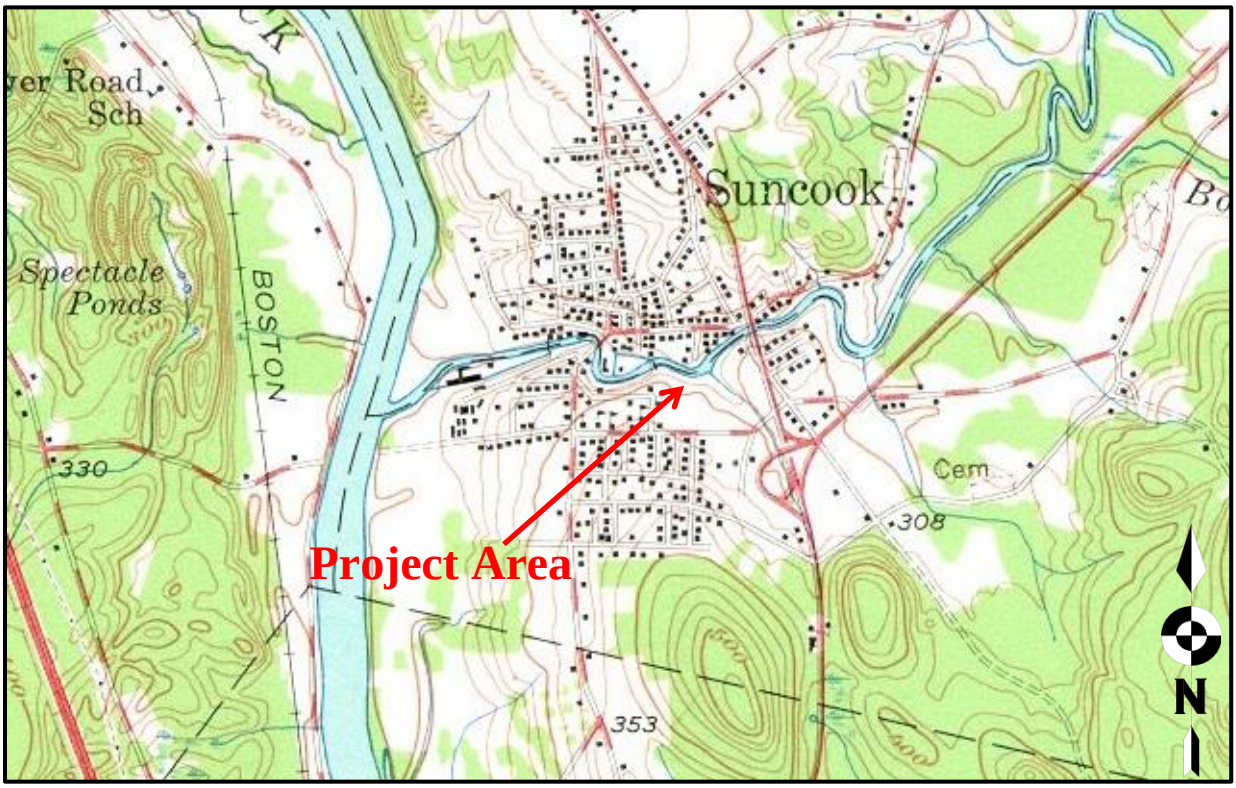

Figure 8. Project Area on USGS 1957 Suncook Quadrangle (1:62,500)

Plate 1. View South of Proposed Pump Station Location

Plate 2. View North of Proposed Pump Station and Sewer Main Showing Level Terrace

Plate 3. View North Toward the Terrace Edge along Suncook River

Plate 4. View North Toward Proposed Pump Station and Sewer Main

Plate 5. View North Showing Level Terrace

Plate 6. Typical Soil Core Showing Developed Plowzone Stratum

Plate 7. Dumped Granite Sills and Stone along Suncook River Bank, View East