

**A. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

This chapter considers the potential for the Proposed Project to affect cultural resources, which include both historic and archaeological resources, on the Project Site and in the surrounding study area.

As described below, there are no improvements on the Project Site that are listed on or determined eligible for listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places (S/NR). Two historic properties have been identified in the vicinity of the Project Site, the Hyatt House on Old Route 6 and the Taconic State Parkway. As described in greater detail below, the Proposed Project would have no significant adverse impacts on historic resources.

With regard to archaeological resources, a Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study (“Phase 1A Study”) prepared for the Project Site recommended Phase 1B archaeological testing in the northern portion of the Project Site that would be disturbed by the Proposed Project. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has concurred with the recommendation that a Phase 1B Archeological Survey be performed. The Applicant will continue to consult and coordinate with OPRHP regarding the Phase 1B archaeological investigation, and any subsequent archaeological investigations that may be determined to be necessary as a result of the investigation (e.g., a Phase 2 Survey/ Evaluation or a Phase 3 Data Recovery). Given this and the findings discussed below, it is the Applicant’s opinion that the Proposed Project will not result in an adverse impact on cultural resources.

**B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES****B.1. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

The Project Site is located in an area indicated as potentially sensitive for archaeological resources by OPRHP (per the FEAF Part I – EAF Mapper Summary Report). Pursuant to Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act, consultation regarding the Project was initiated with OPRHP. In comments transmitted through the New York State Cultural Resource Information System (“CRIS”) on October 13, 2023 (see **Appendix B**), OPRHP determined that a Phase 1A/1B Archaeological Survey should be completed for those portions of the Project Site that would experience ground disturbance as a result of the Proposed Project unless prior disturbance could be documented. A Phase 1A/1B Archaeological Survey includes a combination of documentary research (i.e., “Phase 1A”) and field testing (i.e., “Phase 1B”). Consistent with this determination, the Phase 1A Study was prepared by AKRF in December 2023. The Phase 1A summarizes the results of extensive documentary research designed to identify areas of potential archaeological sensitivity where Phase 1B archaeological investigation will be necessary to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological resources. The conclusions of the Phase 1A Study

are summarized below. In a comment letter dated January 19, 2024, OPRHP concurred with the conclusions and recommendations of the Phase 1A Study (see **Appendix B**).

### *B.1.a. Precontact Archaeological Sensitivity*

In general, Native American habitation sites in the northeastern United States are correlated with level topography (typically less than 12 to 15 percent slopes), access to natural resources such as fresh water and lithic source material, and well-drained soils. The potential presence of Native American activity near a project site can also be predicted by the presence of previously identified resources in the vicinity. However, precontact archaeological sites tend to be relatively shallow, often within five feet of the original ground surface.

As documented in the Phase 1A Study, the Project Site is in close proximity to numerous modern and historical bodies of water, including Barger Brook, Osceola Lake, and other small ponds and springs. Therefore, absent disturbance, level areas of the Project Site could have served as a location for camping or resource acquisition. At least two Native American archaeological sites were previously reported within one mile of the Project Site. This includes a reported Indigenous village site and burial ground that is mapped in CRIS within 750 feet of the Project Site, but which the Phase 1A Study suggests may have been situated further to the east or southwest.

The Phase 1A Study concluded that the developed portion of the Project Site was disturbed by its construction. Other portions of the Project Site feature steep slopes of 15 percent or more. Therefore, the Project Site was determined to have low to moderate sensitivity for pre-contact archaeological resources in the areas to the north of the existing buildings with slopes of less than 15 percent. These areas are depicted on **Figure 4-1**. As stipulated in the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State* as published by the New York Archaeological Council in 1994 and adopted by OPRHP in 1995,<sup>1</sup> archaeological testing (e.g., a Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation) is recommended for areas identified as having moderate sensitivity or higher.

### *B.1.b. Historic Period Sensitivity*

The Phase 1A Study determined that during the historic period, the Project Site was utilized largely for agricultural purposes until the existing commercial complex was constructed between 1987 and 2007. Several map-documented structures were previously located to the south of the Project Site along the historical right-of-way of Jefferson Valley Road—which was historically located in the vicinity of what is now Inspiration Road/U.S. Route 6 (see **Figure 4-1**)—where slopes were less extreme. Unmortared fieldstone walls are present throughout the Project Site that were likely built for agricultural purposes and are known to have been present on the Project Site before 1930. Given the steep slopes across the Project Site; the lack of map-documented structures north of the historical road known as Jefferson Valley Road (in the vicinity of modern U.S. Route 6); and the disturbance generated by the construction of the existing commercial complex,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nysarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/NYACStandards.pdf>

the Phase 1A Study concluded that the Project Site has low sensitivity for historic period archaeological resources.

**B.2. THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

As described in Chapter 2, “Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy,” given the reasonably expected continuing decline in office demand, in the future without the Proposed Project, the land use of the Project Site (as a vacant commercial office campus) would not change, and the existing commercial office buildings and related infrastructure would remain. Therefore, archaeological resources, if present, are not anticipated to be disturbed in the future without the Proposed Project.

**B.3. THE FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

The Phase 1A Study recommended a Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation in the portions of the Project Site with archaeological sensitivity, that would be disturbed with the Proposed Project, which are shown on **Figure 4-1**. A Phase 1B archaeological investigation includes conducting test pits within areas of potential disturbance to determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological resources. Testing is not recommended in areas that have been developed with buildings, graded, or paved or in areas with slopes greater than 15 percent. In a comment letter dated January 19, 2024, OPRHP concurred with the conclusions and recommendations of the Phase 1A Study (see **Appendix B**).

**B.4. MITIGATION**

The Phase 1B archaeological investigation will likely involve the excavation of shovel test pits within areas of archaeological sensitivity that would be impacted by the Project. In the event that the Phase 1B archaeological investigation confirms that pre-contact archaeological resources are present, a Phase 2 Archaeological Survey/Evaluation would be required to determine the horizontal and vertical limits of the archaeological site and to determine its significance/eligibility for listing on the S/NR. If the archaeological site is determined to be significant and the Proposed Project cannot be redesigned to avoid it, a Phase 3 Mitigation/Data Recovery would be required. With the completion of the Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation and any subsequent archaeological investigations that may become necessary (e.g., a Phase 2 Survey/Evaluation or a Phase 3 Mitigation/Data Recovery) and continued consultation and coordination with OPRHP during all phases of archaeological work, it is the Applicant’s opinion that the Proposed Project will not result in impacts on archaeological resources.

**C. HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**C.1. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

*C.1.a. Project Site*

As per the CRIS, there are no improvements on the Project Site listed on or determined to be eligible for listing on the S/NR. OPRHP determined in a letter dated November 2, 2023 that the buildings on the Project Site are not eligible to be listed on the S/NR (see **Appendix B**).

*C.1.b. Historic Resources in the Vicinity*

Two historic resources have been identified in the vicinity of the Project Site (see **Figure 4-2**).

The Hyatt House (also known as the Boehme-Martens House), is located on the north side of Old Route 6, approximately 500 feet east of the Project Site. The Boehme-Martens House was designated a Town of Yorktown Historical Landmark in 1976. In its letter dated November 2, 2023 OPRHP indicated that the Hyatt House is most likely S/NR-eligible (see **Appendix B**). The two-story house with a one-story wing is set on a stone foundation, clad in wood clapboards, and with a stone chimney (see **Figure 4-3**). Built circa 1732, it is one of the few pre-revolutionary houses still standing in the northern part of the Town. The Hyatt House was allegedly the home of Colonel Hyatt, who served in the local militia during the American revolution.<sup>2</sup> Vegetated and wooded areas and a private road are between the Project Site and the Hyatt House.

The Taconic State Parkway (S/NR-listed) extends north-south through the area, west of the Project Site. The Taconic State Parkway was built between 1923 and 1963. The Taconic State Parkway extends 105.3 miles from the Kensico Dam Plaza in Westchester County to the Berkshire Spur of the New York State Thruway (I-90) in Columbia County. The current right-of-way of the entire parkway is S/NR listed. The Parkway is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of recreation, transportation, and regional planning in association with the history of New York State's parks and parkways system. The Parkway is located approximately 125 feet west of the Project Site, and is separated from the Project Site by a dense vegetated and wooded buffer (see **Figures 4-4 and 4-5**).

**C.2. THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

As described in Chapter 2, "Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy," given the reasonably expected continuing decline in office demand, in the future without the Proposed Project, the land use of the Project Site (as a vacant commercial office campus) would not be anticipated to change, and the existing commercial office buildings and related infrastructure would remain. As there are no historic resources on the Project Site, no effects on historic resources are anticipated in the future without the Proposed Project.

**C.3. THE FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

As there are no improvements that are listed on or determined eligible for listing on the S/NR on the Project Site, the Proposed Project would have no adverse impacts on historic resources on the Project Site.

The Proposed Project would have no adverse impacts on the Hyatt House and the Taconic State Parkway. These historic resources are sufficiently buffered from the Project Site by vegetated and wooded areas, and this vegetative buffer would be retained with the Proposed Project. Views along the Taconic State Parkway would continue to include the dense vegetated areas on either side of it, including the large rock outcroppings that line

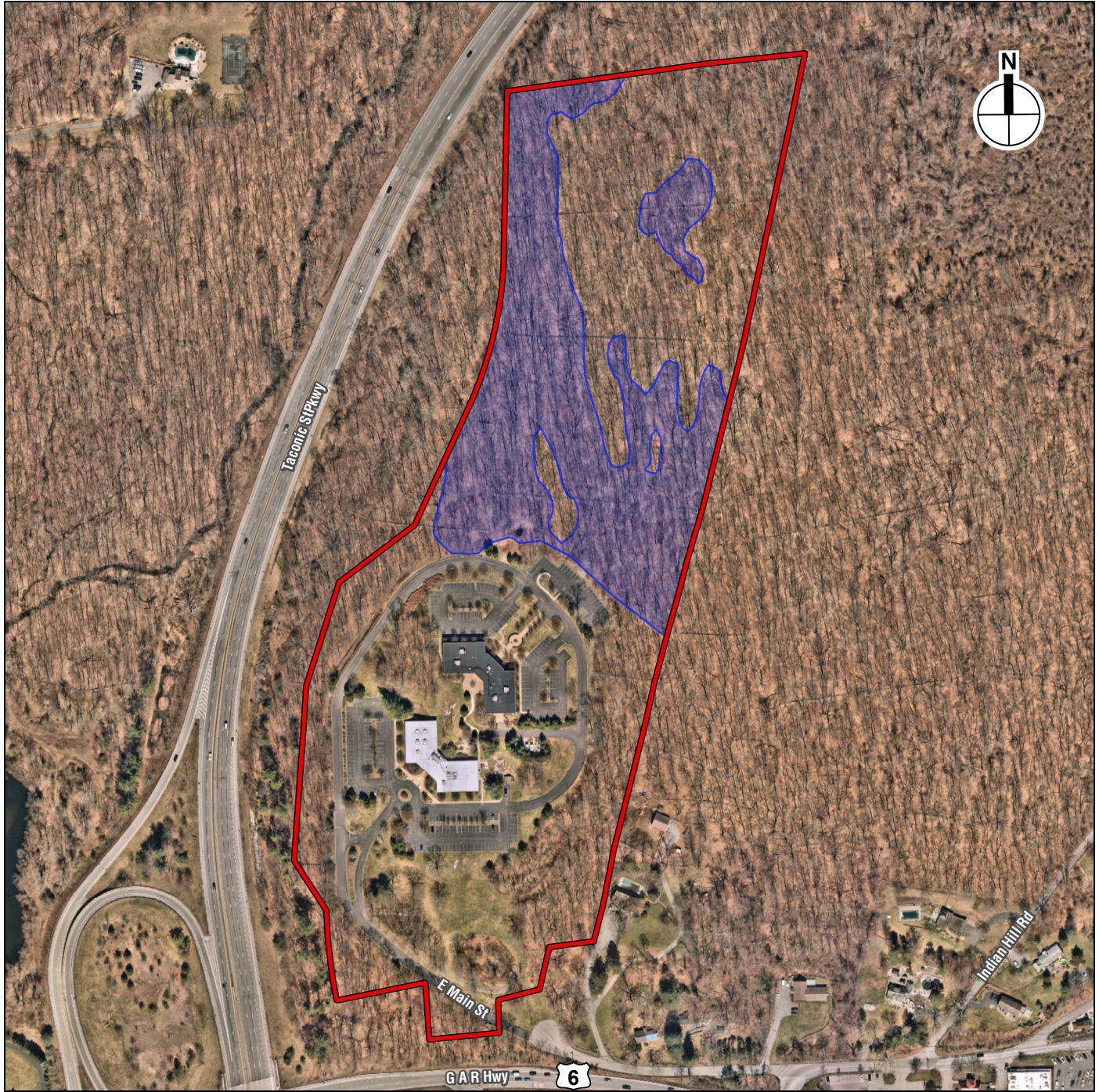
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<sup>2</sup> <https://yorktownny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=327e8108c8e745ecaff3e8568ea1d617>

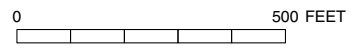
the east side of the Parkway in the vicinity of the Project Site. The Proposed Project has been designed so that the new buildings would be below the height of the tree line along the Taconic State Parkway and would therefore not project above the existing vegetative buffer on the east side of the Taconic State Parkway (see **Figures 4-6 and 4-7**). OPRHP determined in their letter of November 2, 2023 that they do not have any architectural or above-ground concerns for the Proposed Project (see **Appendix B**).

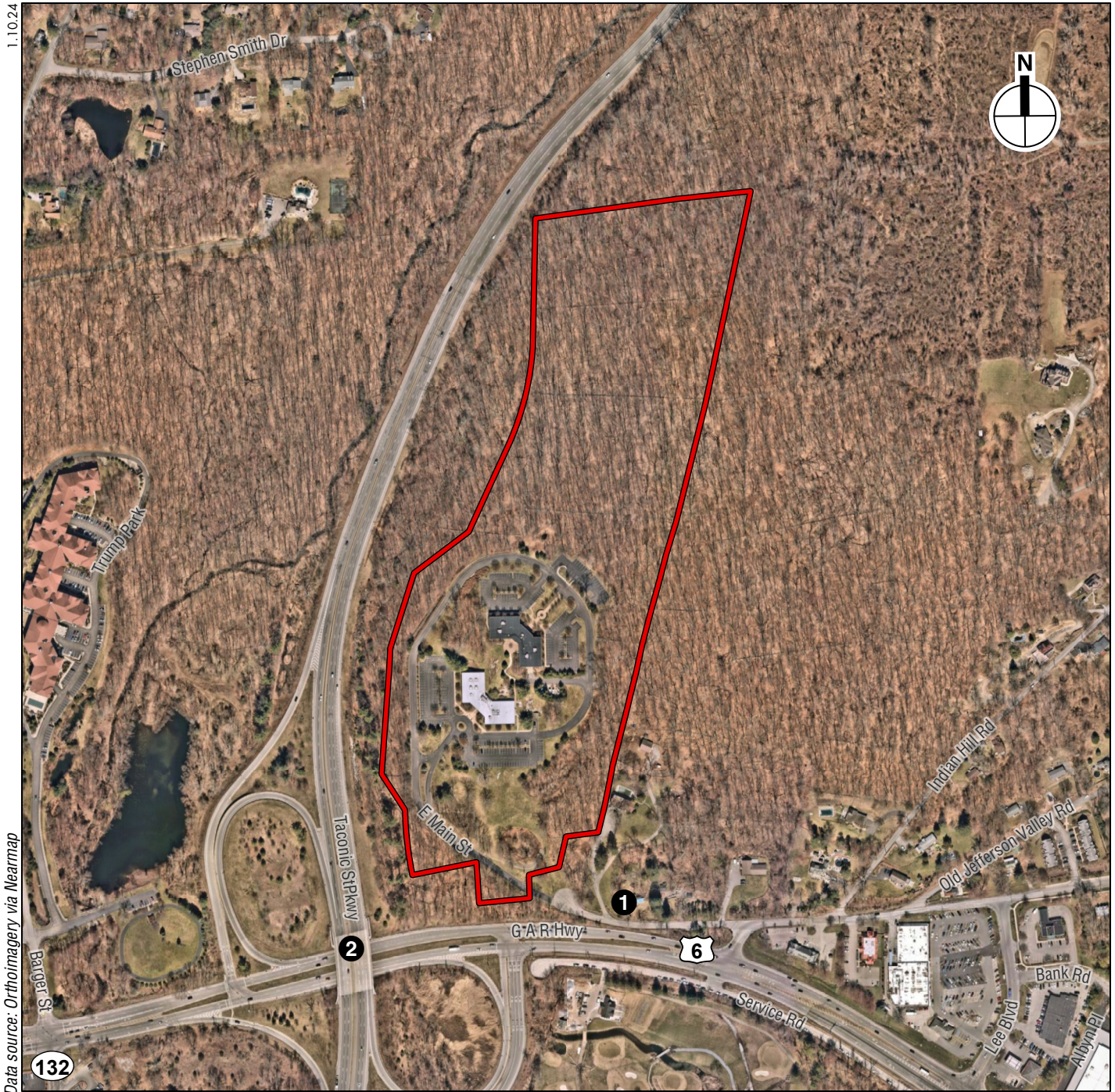
**C.4. MITIGATION**

As the Proposed Project would have no adverse impact on historic resources, no mitigation measures would be required. \*



- Project Site
- Areas of Archaeological Sensitivity





Data source: Orthoimagery via Nearmap

Project Site

0 800 FEET

**Architectural Resources**

- 1** Hyatt House, Old Route 6 (Town of Yorktown Historical Landmark)
- 2** Taconic State Parkway (S/NR-listed)



View north of the Hyatt House on Old Route 6 1



View east of the Hyatt House 2





View southeast from southbound Taconic State Parkway, looking towards the existing dense vegetative buffer between the parkway and the project site **3**

View north on the Taconic State Parkway. The existing dense vegetative buffer between the parkway and the project site is shown on the right

4



View southeast from the shoulder of the northbound Taconic State Parkway towards the project site

5

Taconic State Parkway Photographs:  
March 2023  
Figure 4-5



Proposed Conditions – Fall/Winter



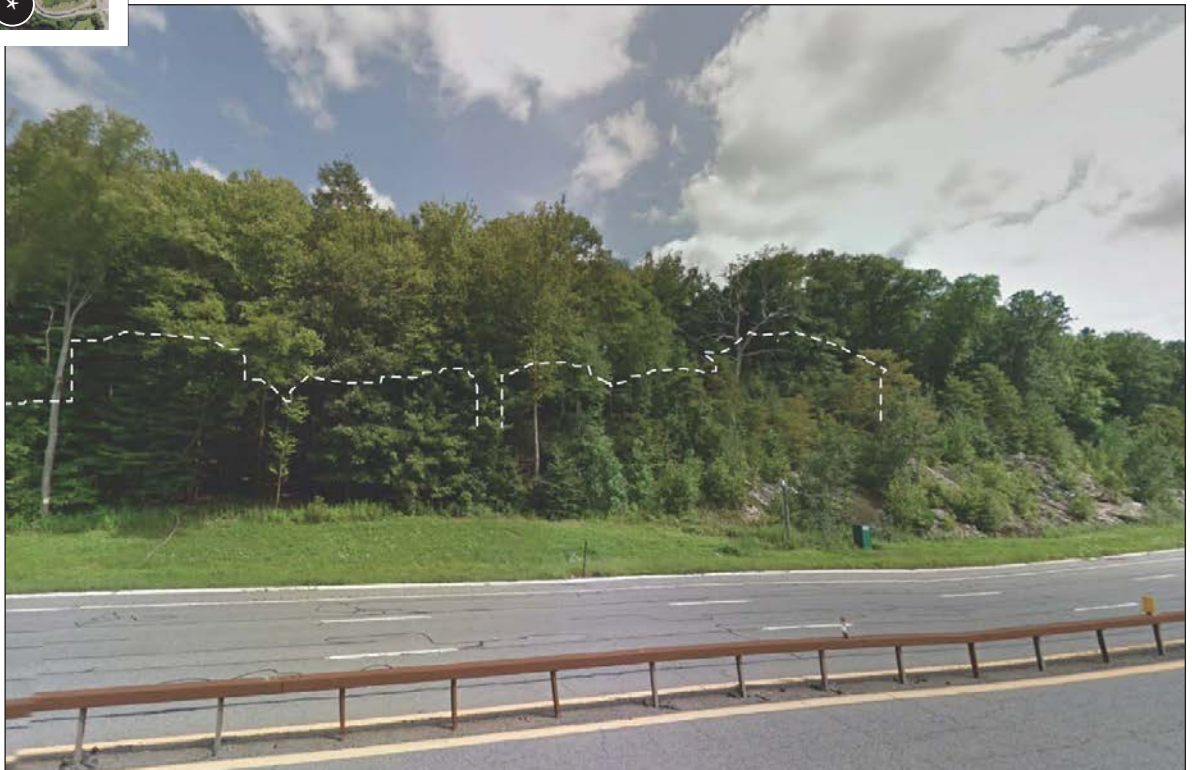
Proposed Conditions – Summer

Proposed Project: View northeast from the  
Taconic State Parkway

**Figure 4-6**



Proposed Conditions – Fall/Winter



Proposed Conditions – Summer