



INTEGRATED HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

November 30, 2006

Nicole Dentamaro
Environmental Scientist
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

RE: Preliminary Archeological Assessment of Telecommunications Tower 999-0108 - New London Located at 1294 Pleasant Valley Road North in Groton, Connecticut

Ms. Dentamaro:

Heritage Consultants, LLC, is pleased to have this opportunity to provide Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., with the following preliminary archeological assessment of proposed telecommunications tower 999-0108 - New London Located at 1294 Pleasant Valley Road North in Groton, Connecticut (Figure 1). The current project entailed completion of an existing conditions cultural resources summary based on the examination of GIS data obtained from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, as well as historic maps, aerial photographs, and topographic quadrangles maintained by Heritage Consultants, LLC. This investigation did not consider the effects of the proposed construction upon built resources, and it is based upon project location information provided to Heritage Consultants, LLC by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. The objectives of this study were: 1) to gather and present data regarding previously identified cultural resources situated within the vicinity of the Areas of Potential Effect; 2) to investigate the proposed project parcels in terms of its natural and historical characteristics; and 3) to evaluate the need for completing additional cultural resources investigations.

As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the proposed project parcel was situated in a largely rural area outside of the developing community of Groton, during the mid nineteenth century. Although there are a few residential structures that appear to be situated near the project parcel on the 1854 or 1868 maps (Figures 2 and 3), the 1934 aerial photograph depicts the proposed project area within an agricultural field (Figure 4). While not apparent in this aerial photograph, the 1941 USGS topographic quadrangle demonstrates that significant changes have occurred to the landscape when compared to the modern topographic quadrangle (Figures 1 and 5). The 1970 aerial photograph shows that substantial development had occurred in the region with construction of Route 12 and the expansion of the U.S. Naval Reservation (Figure 6). Furthermore, the aerial photographs dating from 1985 and 2004 suggest that the project parcel experienced substantial changes associated with the construction, use, expansion, and maintenance of a pet grooming and boarding facility which included large areas of gravel and fill (Figures 7 through 8).

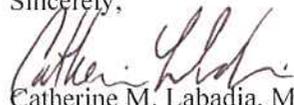
Despite these obvious disturbances, Heritage Consultants, LLC examined the Connecticut archaeological site files maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. This review identified no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but a single previously recorded archeological site. This archeological site is not situated within or immediately adjacent to the proposed

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tower location. Therefore, despite the identification of this resource, the low probability for identifying an archeological site in this location and the degree of disturbance suggest that it is highly unlikely that intact cultural remains exist within the Area of Potential Effect. Because construction of the tower will utilize existing easements and be confined to areas consisting of fill and gravel, it is the professional opinion of Heritage Consultants, LLC that further archeological investigations of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 are not warranted.

If you have any questions regarding this Technical Memorandum, or if we may be of additional assistance with this or any other projects you may have, please do not hesitate to call us at 860-667-3001 or email us info@heritage-consultants.com. We are at your service.

Sincerely,



Catherine M. Labadia, M.A.
President & Principal Investigator



Figure 1. Excerpt from a recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map depicting the approximate location of proposed cellular communications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.

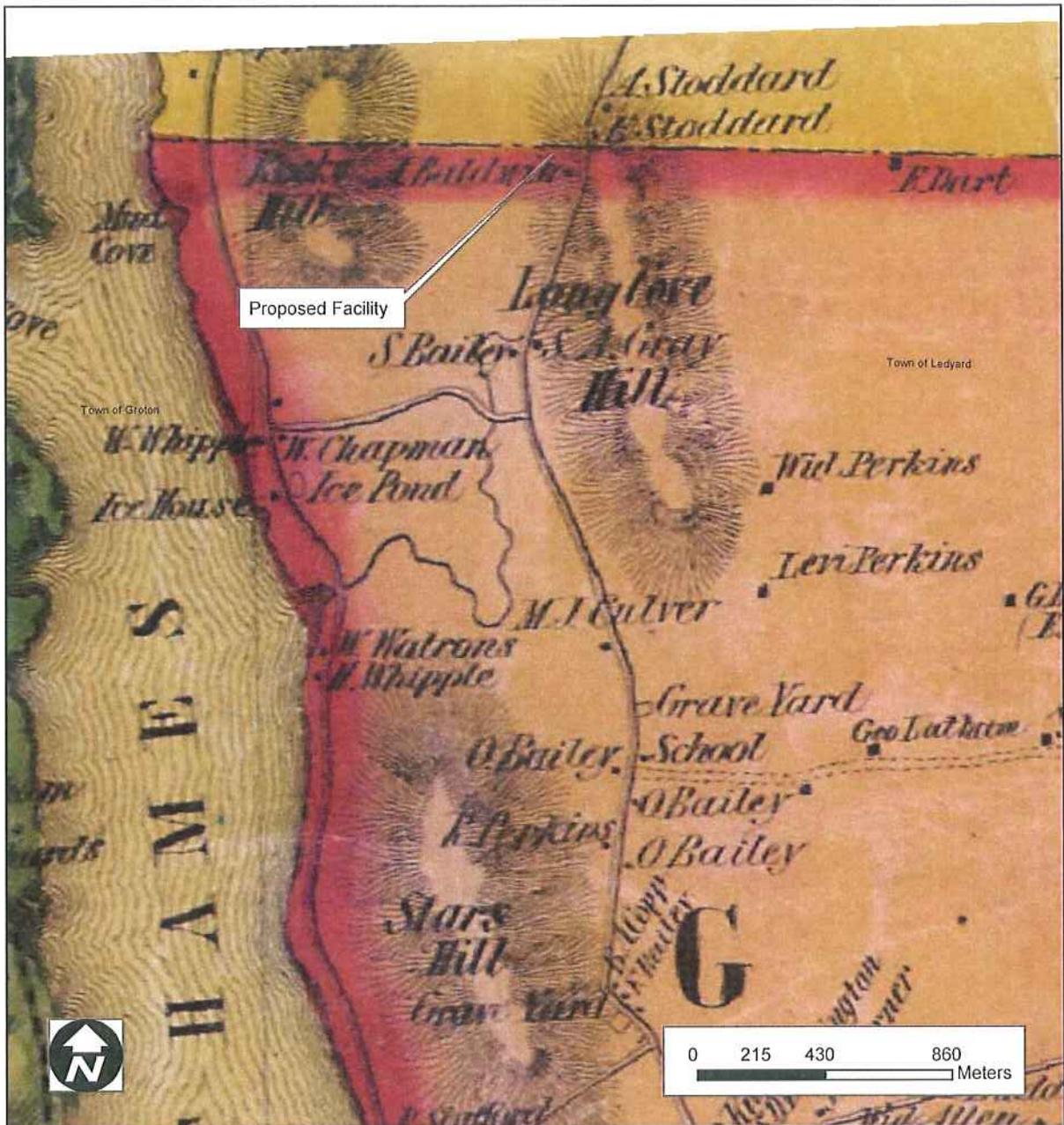


Figure 2. Excerpt from an historic 1854 map depicting the approximate location of proposed cellular communications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.

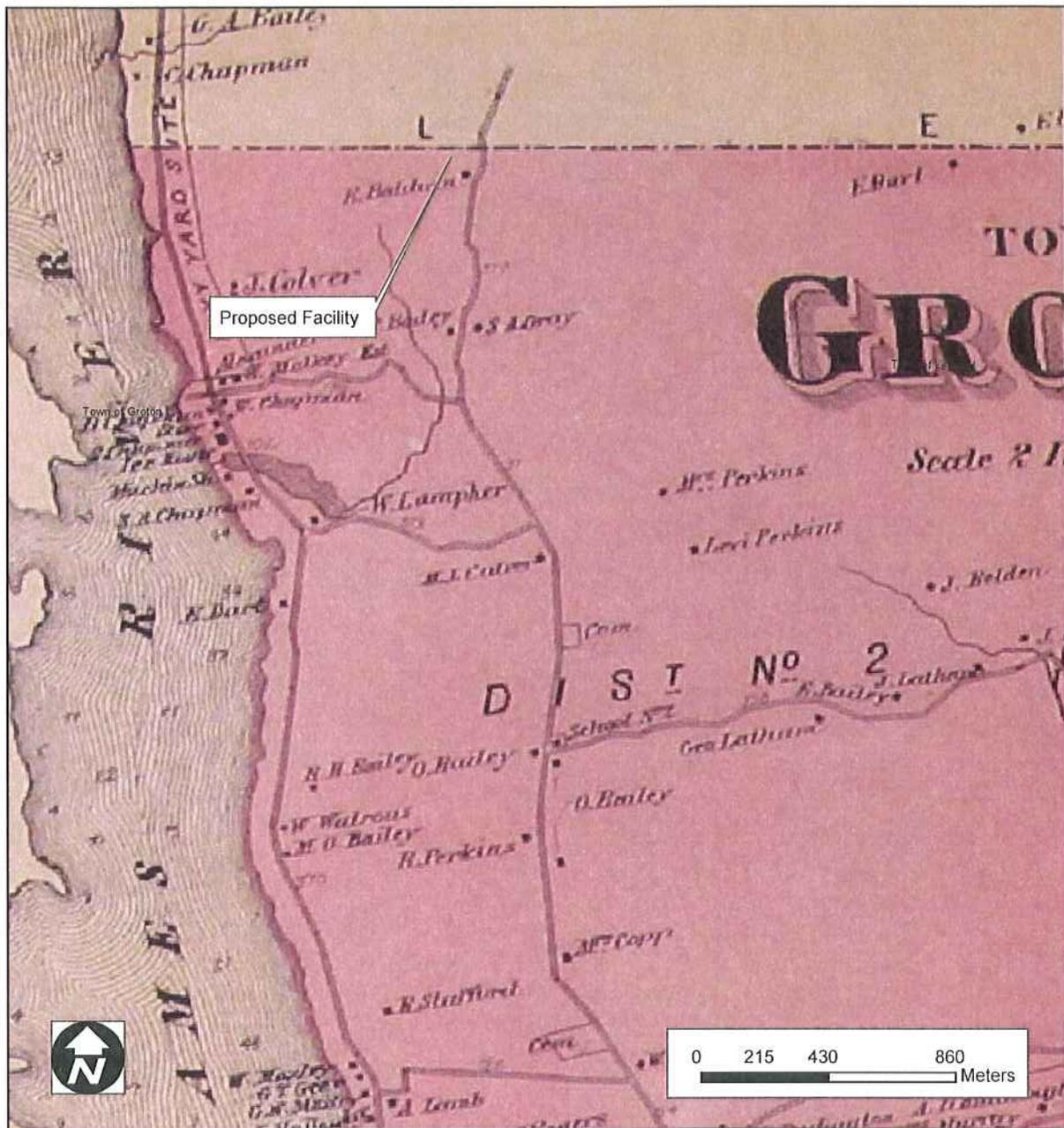


Figure 3. Excerpt from an historic 1868 map depicting the approximate location of proposed cellular communications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.



Figure 4. Excerpt from a 1934 aerial photograph depicting the approximate location of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.

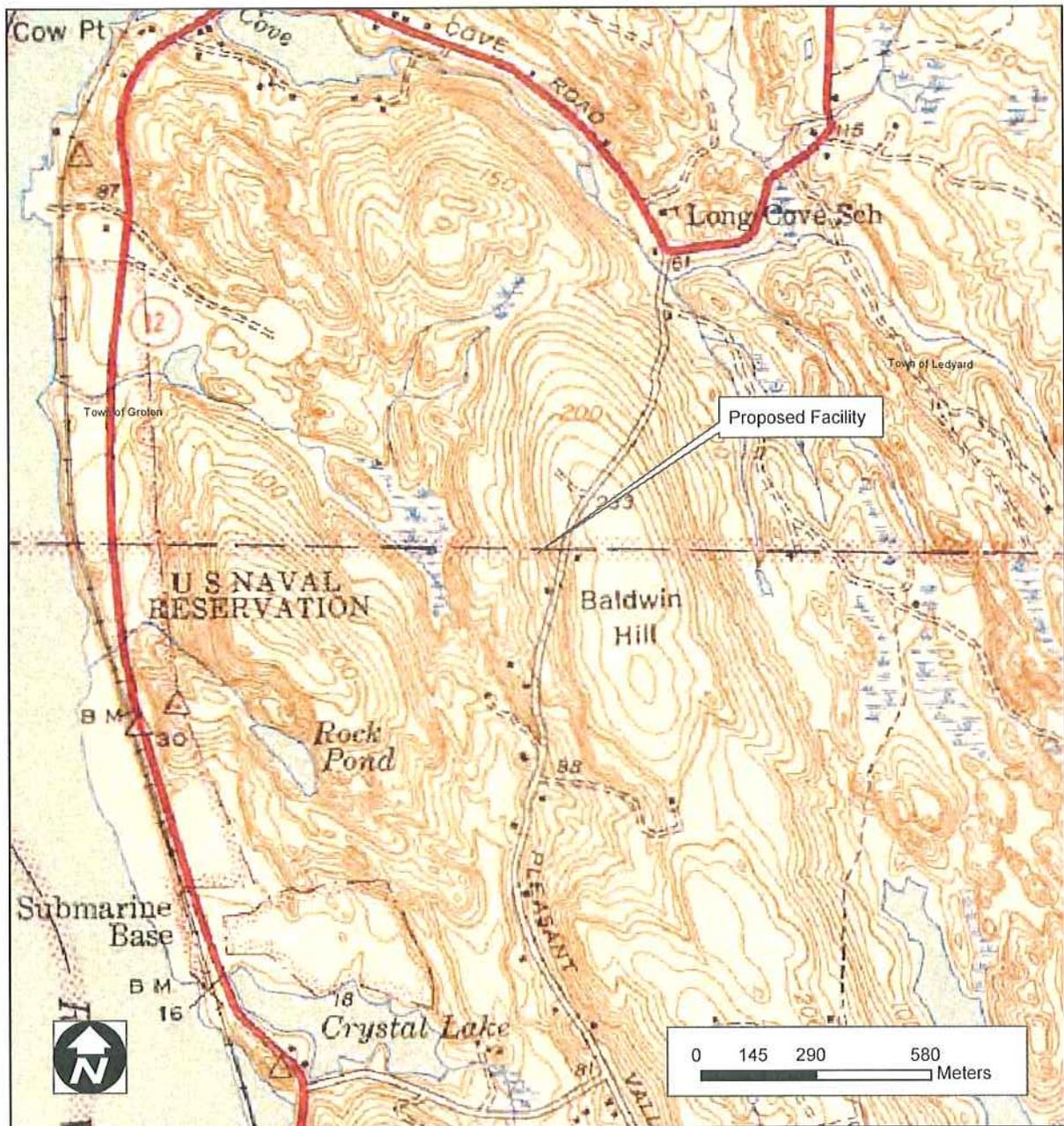


Figure 5. Excerpt from the 1941 USGS 7.5' series topographic quadrangle depicting the approximate location of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.



Figure 6. Excerpt from a 1970 aerial photograph depicting the approximate location of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.

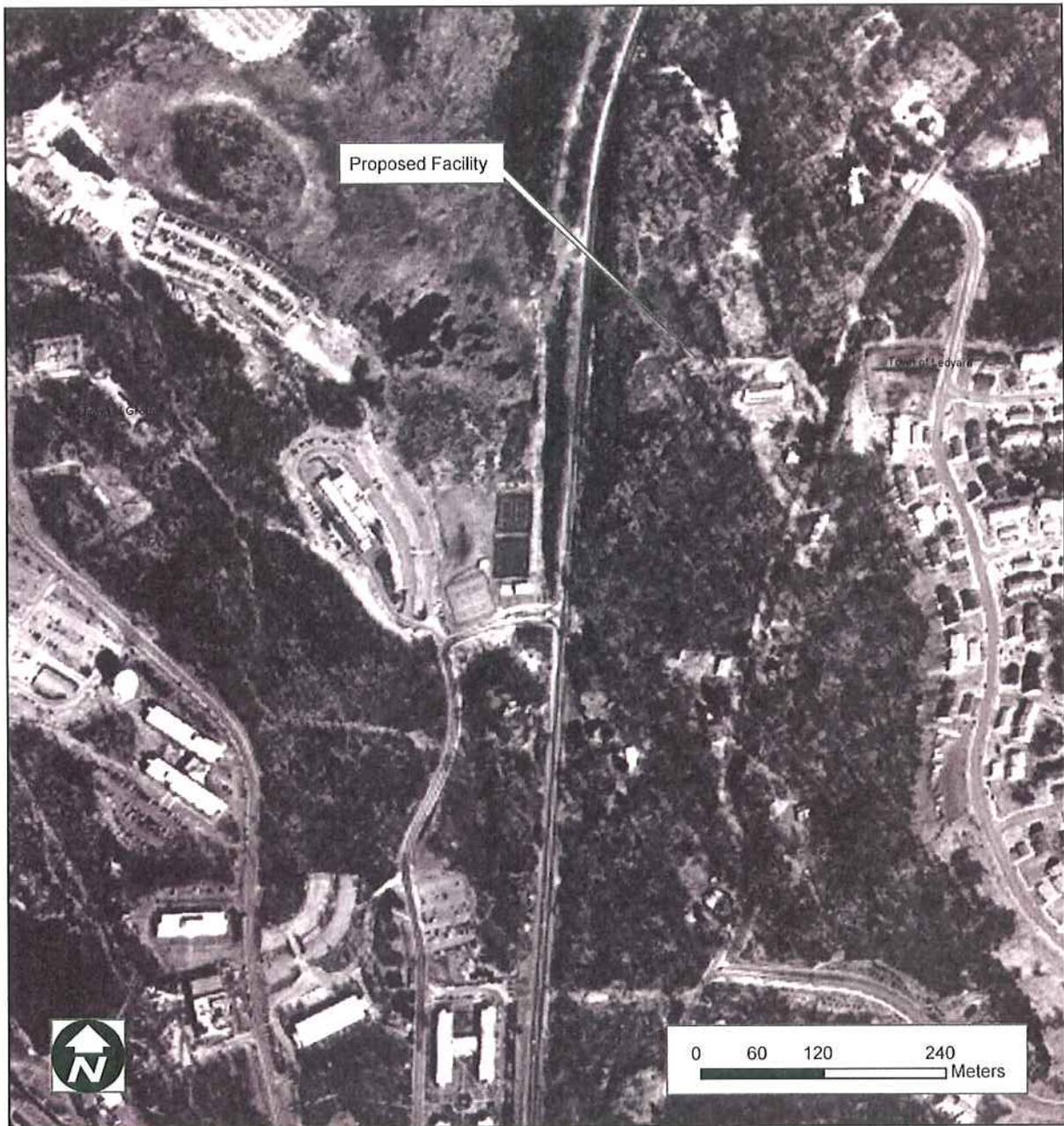


Figure 7. Excerpt from a 1985 aerial photograph depicting the approximate location of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.



Figure 8. Excerpt from a 2004 aerial photograph depicting the approximate location of proposed telecommunications tower CT-999-0108 in Groton, Connecticut.