

Preservation Guidelines: Archeology



Fig. 5-105: [Date Unknown]

Archeology

Many of Bennington's industries, commercial ventures, public buildings and farms were abandoned when they lost their economic and social viability. Often, the buildings decayed and collapsed, or were demolished or burned. The ruins and buried remains of these buildings with their associated features and deposits - kilns, wells, dumps, outhouses and outbuildings - have become part of Bennington's historic archeological heritage. Additionally, prehistoric Native American sites spanning thousands of years exist below Bennington's yards and pavements within 300 feet of the Walloomsac River. Such archeological resources can be rich sources of knowledge about the past, sometimes supplementing the written historical record, but often remaining as the sole source of information regarding small events and patterns of history that were never written down.



Fig. 5-106: [Date Unknown]

Basic Guidelines

Archeological resources should be considered whenever property owners or developers are planning projects that will involve excavation. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation can assist in examining maps and other documents to decide whether a project could have an impact on visible ruins or buried deposits which are important to Bennington's history.

Appropriate

- A** Designing new construction to avoid known archeological sites or at least to minimize impacts on them.
- B** Limiting soil disturbance to the minimum necessary on sites where testing for archeological sites has not been done.
- C** Preserving archeological sites by capping with clean fill and sealing with asphalt or turf.

Not Appropriate

- 1** Demolishing archeological features when sealing them is feasible.
- 2** Bulldozing an entire site that has not been tested for archeological resources.