



CULTURAL
RESOURCE
CONSULTANTS

RGA

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
FINESVILLE DAM, POHATCONG TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY AND
HOLLAND TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CLIENT:

USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service

PROJECT SPONSOR:

USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service

REVIEW AGENCY:

NJ Historic Preservation Office

PROJECT STAFF:

Paul McEachen
Principal Senior Archaeologist
Michael Gall
Senior Archaeologist
Michael Tomkins
Senior Historian



RGA conducted a cultural resources survey in connection with the USDA's Finesville Dam project located in the National Register-eligible Finesville Historic District. The Stage IA archaeological survey determined that the Area of Potential Effects had a high potential to contain mill-related structures associated with nineteenth-century grist, woolen, and cutlery mills that formerly operated in the vicinity of the project area. The Stage IB archaeological survey yielded over 300 historic artifacts, most dating from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century.

Archaeological monitoring documented the partial removal of the existing dam and five previously submerged wooden features. The features included a wooden flue and piling, possibly built during the mid-to late nineteenth century for either the Fine gristmill or the Taylor, Stiles, and Company's cutlery mill; structural elements of a circa-1807 log and stone woolen mill dam; and logs and slag heaps possibly associated with a former 1753 iron forge. Dendrochronological analysis of a timber from the former dam produced a date of 1803 consistent with the known history of this site. The documentation provided a chronology of dam building episodes within a 650-foot long section of the Musconetcong River within the Finesville Historic District.