

The Nevius Street Bridge Project, Somerset County, New Jersey

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Objectives:

Document and preserve historical and archaeological resources while facilitating necessary bridge construction and roadway improvements

What we did:

• RGA performed Phase I-III cultural resources investigations including:

➢ Historical and architectural documentation and HABS/HAER recordation

➢ Archaeological surveys that located, evaluated, and mitigated the significant Lyman Street site (28-So-127)

➢ Development of a Memorandum of Agreement between Somerset County and the FHWA, NJDOT, and NJHPO

• Construction monitoring to document the Raritan Water Power Canal

Project:

Rehabilitation of the 1886 National and State Register listed Nevius Street Bridge and construction of a new bridge over the Raritan River.

What we learned:

• Significant features with carbonized wood and hickory nuts C¹⁴ dated from over 5000 years ago

• The importance of the Raritan Water Power Canal to the area in the 1840s

• Delineation of the North Hillsborough-Raritan River Historic District

What it means:

• 28-So-127 represents a multi-component encampment dating from the Late Archaic to Late Woodland periods

• Significant new data on the development of the T-1 Terrace of the Raritan River

• This work contributes to an understanding of Native American adaptations and settlement systems along the mid-reaches of the Raritan River



Award winning Project!

The project received a coveted New Jersey Historic Preservation Office Award in 2007 for the combination of the design of the new bridge, rehabilitation of the Nevius Street bridge for pedestrian traffic, and historical and archaeological survey and mitigation.

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