

# HORIZONS

A Quarterly Newsletter of Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., Cultural Resource Consultants

## Old Stone Arch Bridge Gets Listed

On June 27, 2008, the Old Stone Arch Bridge in Bound Brook Borough, Somerset County, and Middlesex Borough, Middlesex County, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed circa 1730, the three-arch structure was built to carry the Raritan Road, an important colonial highway, over Green Brook near the community of Bound Brook. It is the earliest documented stone arch bridge in Somerset County and among the oldest in the state.



On April 13, 1777, the Old Stone Arch Bridge earned its place in American history when British troops launched a surprise attack on patriot forces stationed in Bound Brook. A first person account of the battle written by a Hessian officer specifically references

the bridge, where his troops were “exposed to murderous fire” as they advanced on the village. The Battle of Bound Brook was a victory for the British, highlighting the difficulty of defending the area from attack.

During the nineteenth century, the rerouting of Green Brook and construction of railroad embankments in the vicinity resulted in the near complete burial of the Old Stone Arch Bridge. The nomination of the Old Stone Arch Bridge to the New Jersey and National Registers was prepared on behalf of Somerset County, which plans to rehabilitate the structure within a new park dedicated to the site’s Revolutionary War history. A truly unique resource is getting the attention it deserves!



## RGA Celebrates 20 Years



In February 2008, Richard Grubb & Associates celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City. Guests included Amy Greene of Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants. See more

photos at: [www.richardgrubb.com/20thAnn](http://www.richardgrubb.com/20thAnn). Enjoy!

## Archaeology at Buckelew Mansion

RGA recently completed a Phase I archaeological survey in advance of the construction of a drainage system and rehabilitation of the National and State Register listed Ensley-Mount-Buckelew House in the Borough of Jamesburg, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Ensley-Mount-Buckelew House (also known as the Buckelew Mansion) is significant both for its association with James Buckelew, for whom Jamesburg was named, and for its architecture. Local historians believe that a portion of the Buckelew Mansion dates to circa 1685.

Archaeological testing around the perimeter of the house identified intact early to mid-nineteenth-century archaeological deposits, as well as three cultural features. These included a rectangular mold that once contained a footing for an earlier addition to the house; a pre-1830s wooden box drain that may have either drained water from the basement or transferred running water through the cellar of the house; and a builder’s trench associated with the construction of the house’s main block. A cluster of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts was also observed below the floorboards of the rear section of the house. Although evidence of deposits related to a 17<sup>th</sup>



century occupation was not identified, archaeological testing recovered ceramics, glass, pipe stems, and other artifacts from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The artifacts and structural features provided information regarding construction and material culture used by occupants of the Buckelew Mansion.