



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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February 6, 2026

Keith Kazmark
Village Manager
Village of Ridgewood
131 N. Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
via email: kkazmark@ridgewoodnj.net

**RE: Bergen County, Village of Ridgewood
John A.L. Zabriskie House (SR 8/14/2019; NR 11/22/2019)
John A.L. Zabriskie House Archaeological Site (28-Be-232), Site Core 1 and Site Core 2
Phase II Archaeological Survey Report
New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act Review**

Dear Mr. Kazmark,

Pursuant to the letter of conditional authorization dated August 27, 2025 (HPO-H2025-273 PROD), the following Phase II archaeological survey report was submitted to the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) pursuant to Authorization Condition 2.a.:

Herzog Hetherington, Nicole and Teresa Bulger
September 2025 *Phase II Archaeological Survey, John A.L. Zabriskie House Site (28-BE-232), Village of Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. Prepared for the Village of Ridgewood. Prepared by Richard Grubb and Associates Inc. (RGA), Cranbury, New Jersey.*

Upon review, the report is found well-written, technically complete, and sufficient. The report documents the implementation of the Phase II research design within the John A.L. Zabriskie House site (28-Be-232), Site Core 1 and Site Core 2, consisting of 36 shovel test pits (STP), 27 excavation units (EU), and four mechanical strip blocks (SB)(Figures 4.1 and 4.2).

1. John A.L. Zabriskie House site (28-Be-232), Site Core 1

The Phase II archaeological survey identified three cultural components within Site Core 1:

- An ephemeral, non-diagnostic pre-Contact period component.

- A late eighteenth through *circa* 1820 domestic occupation with structural and sanitary disposal evidence.
- The John A.L. Zabriskie House period of significance (1825-1924) archaeological deposits with additional evidence for domestic and sanitary practices.

The report recommends that the John A.L. Zabriskie House site (28-Be-232), Site Core 1 is a contributing element to the significance to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places listed John A.L. Zabriskie House historic property under Criterion D. While no additional archaeological survey is recommended.

Upon review, the HPO concurs with these findings and assessments. In addition, the limits 28-Be-232, Site Core 1 shall be protected in place from any project-related ground disturbing activities. Therefore, prior to any park construction activity, the Village shall submit an archaeological avoidance and protection plan (Authorization Condition 2.b.) and archaeological monitoring plan (Authorization Condition 2.c.) to the HPO for prior review and approval.

2. John A.L. Zabriskie House site (28-Be-232), Site Core 2

The report states that 28-Be-232, Site Core 2, within the general area of mapped nineteenth century farm outbuildings, documented a broad area of ground disturbance from twentieth century and later earth moving operations, demolition work, and an intact mid-twentieth century refuse deposition layer (EU 2-E and EU 2-F). The report states Site Core 2 contains:

- Extensive ground disturbance;
- Lacks historic-period cultural features;
- Lacks evidence for the former outbuildings;
- Contains intermixed demolition/dumping layers;
- Lacks pre-early-twentieth century living surfaces precludes the ability to provide new and important information regarding the previous inhabitants during the period of significance of the property or earlier.

The report concludes that no further archaeological survey is recommended within 28-Be-232, Site Core 2.

Upon review, the HPO concurs with these findings and assessments.

Additional Comments

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for review and comment on the potential for this project to affect historic and archaeological resources. The HPO looks forward to the archaeological avoidance and protection plan and archaeological monitoring plan (Authorization Conditions 2.b.& 2.c.) for review and approval prior to any ground disturbing activities within the limits 28-Be-232, Site Core 1. Further, the HPO looks forward to receiving the following for review and comment:

- Condition 1: Prior to the removal, demolition, or alteration of any components of the Zabriskie House property, the Village shall document the existing conditions of the house and its setting to Level III equivalent standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- Condition 3: the Village shall design and install three (3) interpretive signs in the Zabriskie-Schedler Park detailing the history and significance of the Zabriskie House and property.



- Condition 4: the Village shall develop a landscape plan, completed by a licensed landscape architect experienced with historic properties, for the Zabriskie-Schedler Park.
- Condition 5: The Village shall develop and implement an operations and management plan for the proposed History & Cultural Center of Bergen County.
- Condition 6: The Village shall develop a financial plan, developed by a qualified professional in financial management, for the History & Cultural Center of Bergen County.
- Condition 7: The Village shall develop an interpretive display to be installed in a publicly accessible location at the Zabriskie House property commemorating the national America250 initiative.
- Condition 8: The Village shall develop an interpretive display to be installed in a publicly accessible location at the Zabriskie House regarding the history of the Zabriskie House and property, including the archaeological discoveries on the property.
- Condition 9: Final plans and specifications shall be submitted to the HPO for review and approval of the proposed park plans to ensure their compatibility with the Zabriskie House.

Please reference **HPO project number 20-0608** in any future calls, emails, or written correspondence in order to expedite our review and response. Please do not hesitate to contact **Vincent Maresca** of my staff at Vincent.Maresca@dep.nj.gov with questions regarding archaeology or **Jennifer Leynes** of my staff at Jennifer.Leynes@dep.nj.gov with questions regarding historic architecture or landscapes. Thank you for your cooperation with this review.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Marcopul
Administrator

c. (via email): Elaine Gold, Bergen County Cultural & Historic Affairs
Ridgewood Historical Society
Ridgewood Historic Preservation Commission
Paul McEachen, Richard Grubb
Susan Orr, New Jersey State Museum

KJM/MMB/VM

