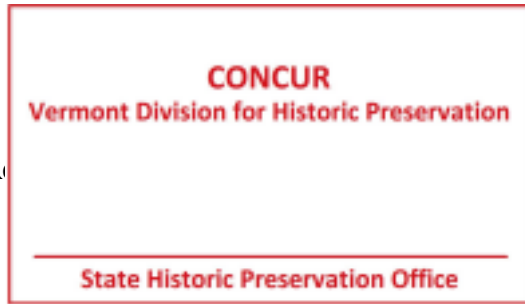


Archaeological R



**Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal
y, Vermont**

Submitted to:

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Report No. 1041

**January 31, 2017
Archaeological Site Inspection for the proposed Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project,
Cabot, Washington County, Vermont**

Project Description

The VT Department of Public Safety proposes the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont (Figure 1). The proposed project will remove the destroyed sawmill structure on the project property and to decommission the dam in Lower Cabot, Vermont, the latter of which has caused extensive downstream flooding to a bridge and town infrastructure. In removing the dam and the structure, the floodplain will have more room to function naturally, better protecting downstream infrastructure and upstream residences from future flood events (Figure 2).

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVMCAP) conducted an Archaeological Resources Assessment (ARA) as part of the Section 106 permitting process. Much of the proposed project area was identified as sensitive for precontact Native American sites.

Study Goal

The goal of an ARA (or “review”) is to identify portions of a specific project’s APE that have the potential for containing precontact and/or historic sites. An ARA is to be accomplished through a “background search” and a “field inspection” of the project area. For this study, reference materials were reviewed following established guidelines. Resources examined included the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files; the Historic Sites and Structures Survey; and the USGS master archaeological maps that accompany the Vermont Archaeological Inventory (VAI). Relevant town histories and nineteenth-century maps also were consulted. Based on the background research, general contexts were derived for precontact and historic resources in the study area.

Archaeological Site Potential

No historic period or precontact era archaeological sites are known from within or adjacent to the proposed project area (see Figure 1). In fact, no known archaeological sites exist within 4 km of the proposed project area. The closest known archaeological sites are along VT Rte 2, 4.5 km to the south. The lack of known archaeological sites within and adjacent to the project area does not necessarily mean that no early European and precontact Native American occupation occurred in the valley, just that little to no development, which would stimulate archaeological investigations has been carried out in the area. Considering that the project area encompasses the upper portion of the Winooski River, and that several major tributaries enter it within and adjacent to the project area, the project area would have been an attractive location for early occupation. As a result, there is a likelihood of finding archaeological sites in the area, especially on the landforms adjacent to either the Winooski River or Jog Brook.

In regard to historic period resources, both the historic 1856 Wallings map (Figure 3) and the 1869 Beers map (Figure 4) show a high density of buildings in Lower Cabot. In particular, the maps show that the location of the dam appears to have powered a woolen mill and a saw mill in 1856, and then the Haines Brothers Woolen Mill in 1873. The Lower Cabot Historic District is UVMCAP Report #1041 2 listed on the State Register of Historic Places. This historic district contains numerous structures within and adjacent to the proposed project (Figure 5). In the historic district listings, the sawmill at the dam is documented as the Headwater Lumber Co., which sits upon foundations

of the previous woolen mill. Numerous houses along the banks of the Winooski River are also listed, and these structures appear to still be occupied in their original locations. The proposed project will impact both the remains of the sawmill and woolen mill, and the dam, but no other structures within the historic district. No structures within or adjacent to the proposed project has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This historic district has been found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of historic Places.

A brief history of the mill complex contextualizes this long-lived structure. The waterpower near the project area was developed by Moses Stone ca. 1797, who first built a sawmill then a distillery (ca. 1812) here. In 1825, Horace Haines, John R. Putnam and William Ensign moved a fulling mill to the location where the distillery stood. In ca. 1827, William Fisher built a tannery on a site across the river, which was operated until the 1830s. In 1835, Alden Webster bought the fulling mill and upgraded it into a woolen cloth factory, making kerseymere, sheep grays and sattinets. Alden Webster sold his business back to Horace Haines in 1849. It is said that a new mill building was built at this time. Horace Haines and his sons operated this mill at least until the mid-1890s. The old sawmill was taken down in 1885. The woolen cloth factory building was eventually sold by Ira Haines in 1905 and in 1910 it was converted into a box factory by Harry Clark. Clark made many butter boxes for the Cabot Creamery. The building burned in January of 1925. Clark then built a new sawmill and shop, using lumber salvaged from an old church in town. The sawmill then passed to Harry Clark's son, Clifton 'Chub' Clark, in 1946. Clifton Clark sold the mill to Dan Davis in 1976. Davis called the mill "Headwater Mill." This was said to be the last water powered commercial sawmill in Vermont. A more thorough history will be reconstructed as part of the Historic Standing Structures review for this project.

Desk Review

As part of the desk review, the UVM CAP utilized the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation's (VDHP) predictive model for identifying precontact Native American archaeological sites. The Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project area scores 68 on the Predictive Model, due to its location within 90 m of the Winooski River (12), within 90 m of Jug Brook (12), within 90 m of the confluence of Jug Brook and the Winooski River (12), and along a major floodplain of the Winooski River (32). In addition to the paper-based predictive model, the desk review uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) developed jointly by the UVM CAP, and its consultant Earth Analytic, Inc., which operationalizes the paper-based model. It does this by applying the VDHP's sensitivity criteria to all lands within the State of Vermont. In these maps, archaeological sensitivity is depicted by the presence of one or more overlapping factors, or types of archaeological sensitivity (i.e. proximity to water, etc.). The Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project parcel crosses areas that contain seven sensitivity factors, which are Drainage, Waterbody, Wetland, Stream-Water confluence, Kame Terrace, Floodplain, and Level Terrain (see Figure 1).

Field Inspection

A field inspection of the project area was carried out on January 11, 2017 by Charles

Knight, Assistant Director of the UVM CAP. Knight walked all over the area of the existing dam and sawmill, and various spots along the banks of the Winooski River upriver of the dam. The remains of the sawmill and woolen mill are limited to the foundation of the woolen mill and the timber frame of the saw mill (Figure 6). The removal of the dam will impact the remaining mill foundation (Figure 7). Much of the foundation remains could not be seen due to snow cover, but the location of the site is obvious (Figure 8).

The banks of the Winooski River and Jog Brook are all archaeologically sensitive for the entirety of the project limits. The Winooski River in this area cuts through a broad floodplain, with easy access to the river (Figure 9). The confluence of the Jog Brook and Winooski River is marked by the Lower Cabot general store and associated buildings, but portions of the back lot appear intact and thus, archaeologically sensitive (Figure 10). Jog Brook itself, west of VT Rte 215, is intact, provides ease-of-access to the brook and thus, is archaeologically sensitive (Figure 11).

Conclusions

The VT Department of Public Safety proposes the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont. The UVM CAP conducted an Archaeological Resources Assessment of the proposed dam and sawmill removal project and identified the banks of the Winooski River and Jog Brook as sensitive for precontact Native American sites. In addition, the foundation of the mill complex has a long and important history in Vermont. The complex has been listed on the State Register as part of a historic district, and is eligible for inclusion on the National Register. However, there is little likelihood that any important subsurface archaeological remains exist dating to the earliest mill in 1797. The fire that destroyed the mill complex 1925 likely burned away any archaeological remains. For this reason no additional archaeological study is recommended for the sawmill and dam complex itself. However, as mentioned above, the banks of the Winooski River and Jog Brook in the affected portions of the project area that will see bank erosion are archaeologically sensitive. Since there is a high possibility that those banks will be destroyed by newly created water channels after the dam is removed, a Phase I site identification survey is recommended for those portions of the project area. Thank you for working with us on this project. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Charles Knight, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

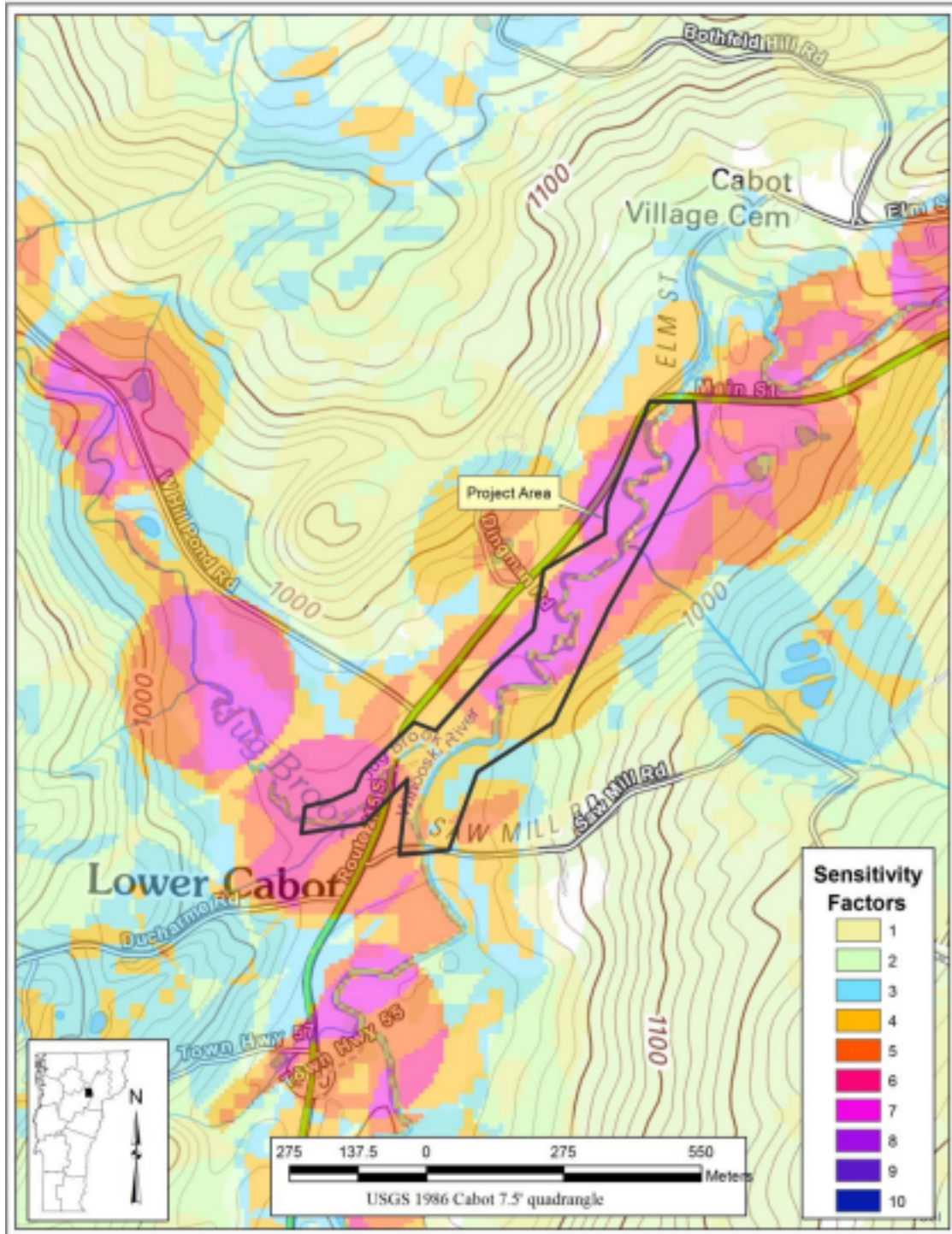


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the proposed Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, in relation to archaeological sensitivity factors and known archaeological sites, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.



Figure 2. Project Map showing the project elements of the proposed Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

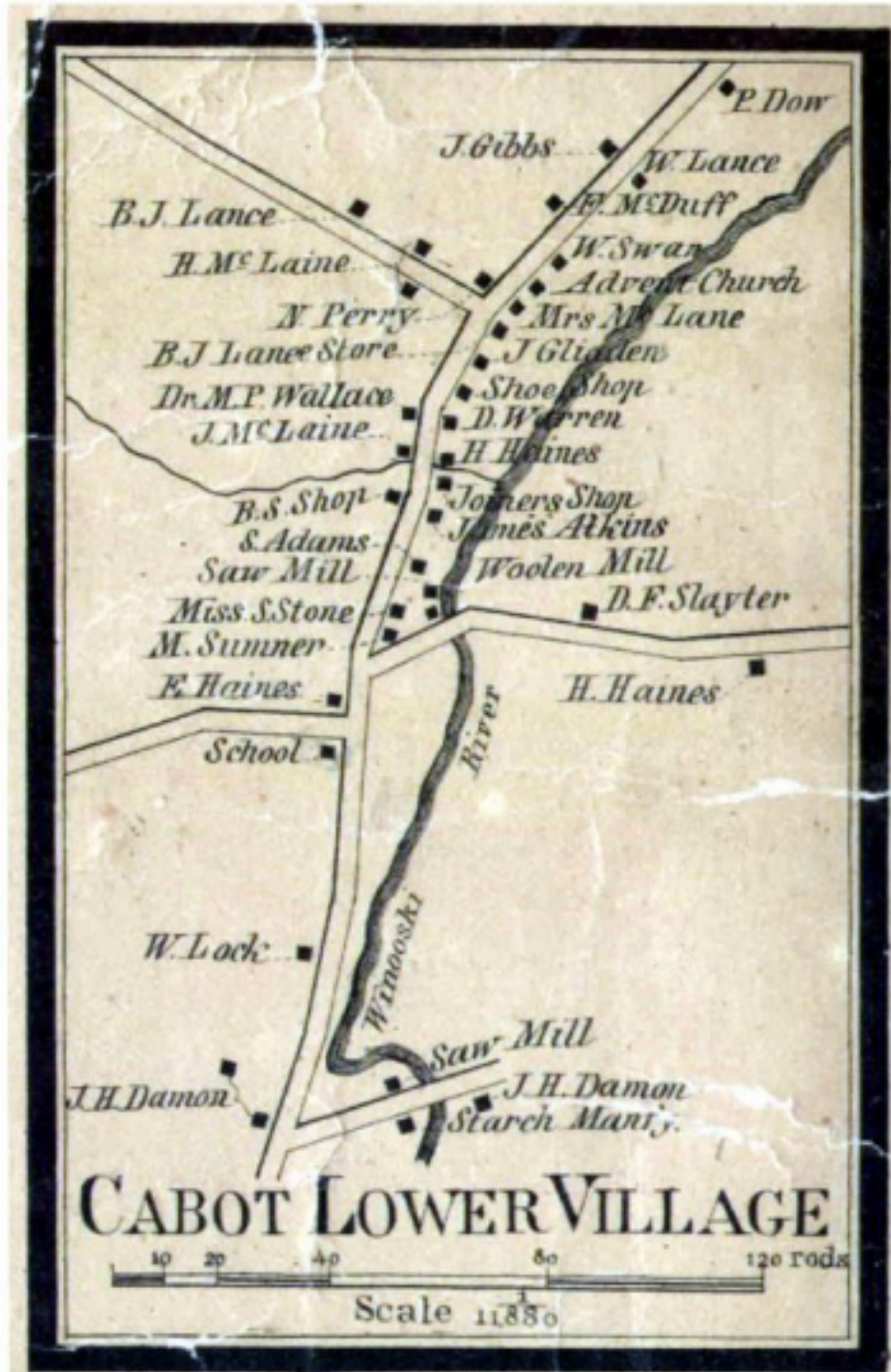


Figure 3. Historic 1858 Wallings map of the project location for the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.



Figure 4. Historic 1873 Beer's atlas of the proposed location of the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

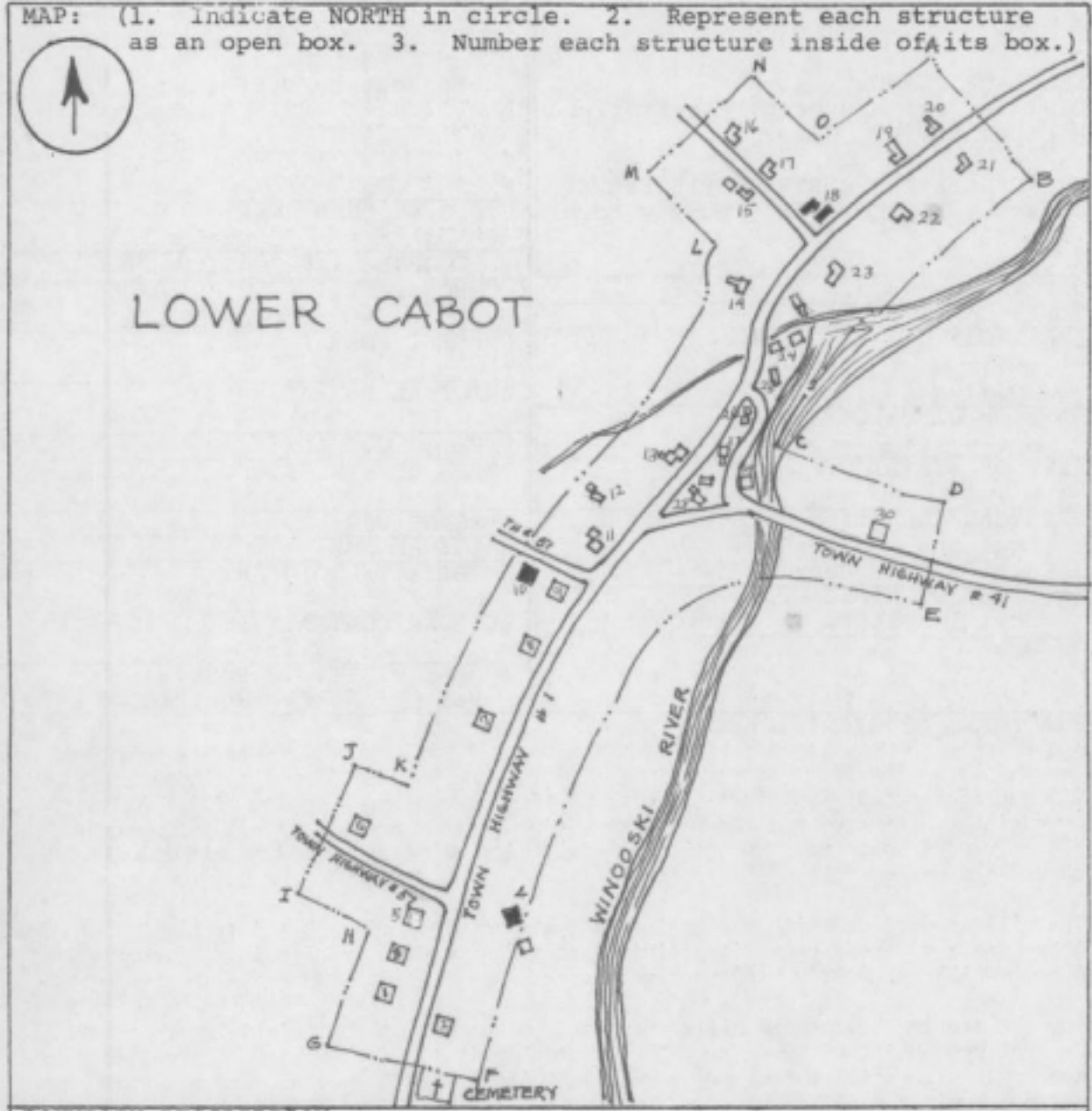


Figure 5. Map showing the contributing buildings (open boxes) to the Lower Cabot Historic District, which includes the dam and sawmill remains of the proposed Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.



a



b

Figure 6. Photos looking north (a) and northwest (b) at the remains of the sawmill, with dam structure in background for the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.



a



b

Figure 7. Photos looking north (a) at edge of mill foundation remains, and east (b) at existing dam crossing the Winooski River for the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

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a



b

Figure 8. Photos looking south (a) and north (b) at remains of the mill complex attached to the dam for the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

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Figure 9. Photos looking southwest (a) and south (b) from VT Rte 215 across the floodplain of the Winooski River in the northern section of the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project,

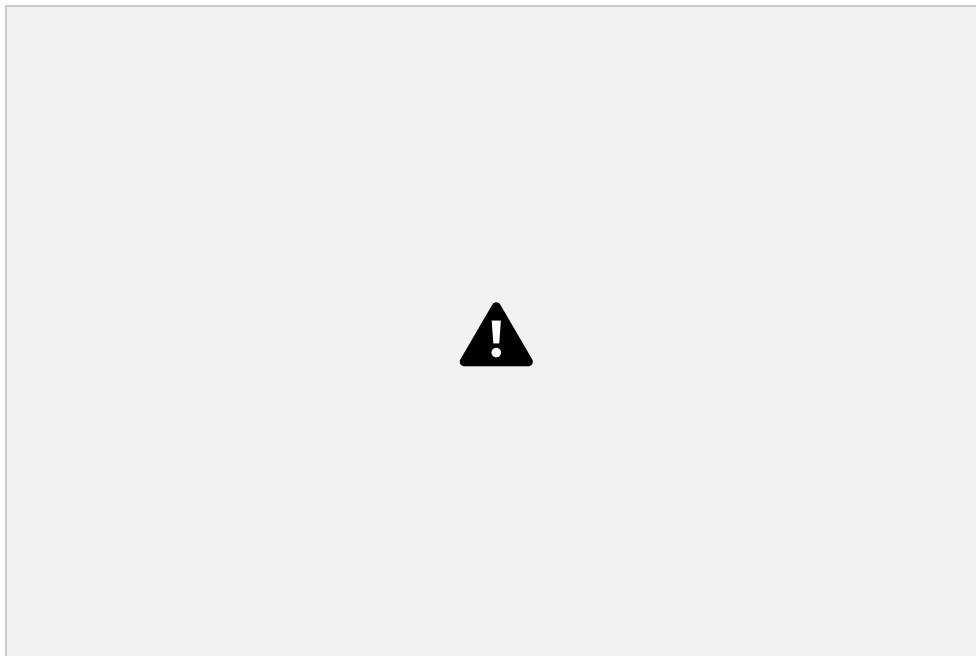
Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

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b

Figure 10. Photos looking northeast (a) and south (b) at Jog Brook for the Cabot Dam and

Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont.

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a



b

Figure 11. Photos looking northeast at the confluence of Job Brook and the Winooski River (a), and southeast immediately downstream of the Winooski River from this confluence (b) for the Cabot Dam and Sawmill Removal Project, Cabot, Washington County, Vermont. 15

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