

**STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**  
**FOR**  
**GENERAL MOTORS TONAWANDA PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT**  
**TOWN OF TONAWANDA,**  
**ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**OPRHP No. 00 PR 1164**

○

**August 4, 2000**

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**Prepared For:**

**Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, LLP**  
**3400 HSBC Center**  
**Buffalo, New York 14201**

 **COMMONWEALTH CULTURAL  
RESOURCES GROUP, INC.**

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**by**

**Carolyn A. Pierce, M.A.**  
**Principal Investigator**

**Robert J. Peltier,**  
**Crew Chief**

**Todd P. Harrington,**  
**Coordinator**

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## **ABSTRACT**

A Stage 1 archaeological investigation was conducted for a 47-acre parcel proposed for expansion of the General Motors Powertrain Facility in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The acreage covered three parcels - 240, 280 and 344 Vulcan Street. Prior to the archaeological study, an architectural study was completed and presented to OPRHP (00 PR 1166). Background research, site file, historic map and atlas review and interviews all seemed to indicate that historic impacts had most likely obliterated any evidence of previous original ground surfaces. Several locations had historically been low and wet and had been brought up to grade to serve as storage areas and parking lots. Stage 1B field investigations attempted to shovel test in any locations that contained grass and a minimum of obvious debris. The latter locations included the 240 and 280 Vulcan Street parcels; the 344 Vulcan Street parcel was not tested. Field methods included shovel testing at 50-foot intervals and coring a concrete parking lot between subsurface utility lines. Several shovel tests in the southwestern corner of the project area yielded lithics, mostly debitage. All were of Onondaga chert. Close-intervals (10-foot) shovel tests were placed at each findspot. While the material was genuinely cultural, the context in which it was recovered led the author to determine that the material had been brought in fill used to fill in low wet locations. In other words, the material was re-deposited from a location(s) unknown. No further cultural resource investigations are recommended for the GM Plant Expansion project.

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