

**Inn at Taughannock
Gorge Road at NYS Route 89**

**Town of Ulysses
Tompkins County, New York**

NOISE LEVEL STUDY

Prepared For:

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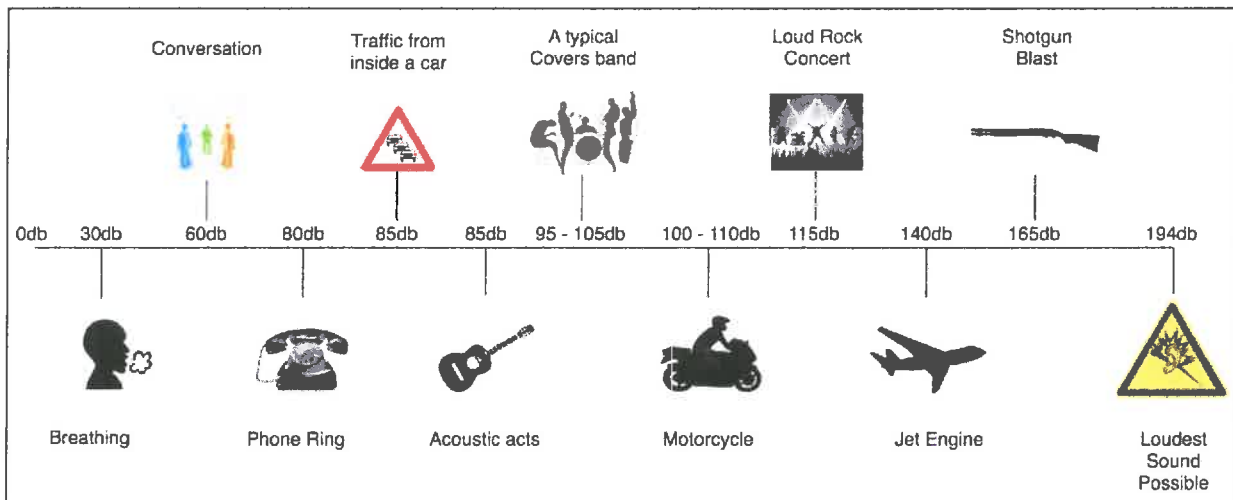
1.0 Project Summary

At the request of the Owner, Carl Mazzocone, a sound level test was completed by Napierala Consulting on Wednesday, July 26th at the Inn at Taughannock, located at the intersection of Gorge Road and Route 89. This test was performed in order to assess the auditory impact that a typical outdoor event would have on the surrounding environment, specifically the neighboring properties on Gorge Road and Taughannock Falls State Park. Representatives from the NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Office were in attendance and witnessed the data collection (John VanValen and Marcus Riehl) as well as Carl Mazzocone, the property owner.

2.0 Methods

The test was performed between 5:00pm and 7:00pm on Wednesday evening. The professional DJ on-site was told to play a typical playlist for a wedding reception at a sound level he would expect for such an event being held outdoors. The sound system was set up in a pop-tent off of Gorge Road and facing northwest towards the Inn. Carl indicated that this would be the typical setup during an event. Napierala Consulting plotted observation points (marked with flags) varying from 10 feet away to a half-mile away from the audio source. The observation points followed two separate paths away from the source, one up Gorge Road to the west and the other up Route 89 to the north.

The representatives from Taughannock Falls State Park also requested three other locations be observed: (1) the beach area across Route 89 near the closest park pavilion, (2) the closest state park campground, and (3) the state park cabin sites. Using a digital sound level meter, decibel readings were measured at all observation points, first without music to obtain background levels and then with the music on to observe the potential impact. The music level at the source was played at 115 decibels. In an effort to be conservative, this value is slightly louder than would typically be played at an outdoor event. Attached is a spread sheet of the readings at each observation point. For comparison, below is a graphic illustrating typical noise levels.





3.0 Gorge Road Observation Path

Background levels (before the music was turned on) at points closer to the source were measured at around 50 dB with spikes up to 74 dB due to traffic on Route 89. At points further away from the source (>500 feet) the background levels were only slightly quieter, however still had significant spikes when cars passed by on Gorge Road.

With the music on, the sound levels near the source significantly increased, as expected. At 200 feet away from the source, the measured level was at 74-82 dB. However, at 500 feet away the level had decreased to about the noise level of a normal conversation (between 55 to 65 dB). At this point, the sound spikes of passing cars making their way up Gorge Road were louder than the music level. At 1,000 feet away from the source, the music was barely audible and by 2,000 feet away from the source, the music was inaudible.

4.0 Route 89 Observation Path

Background levels along the Route 89 path were fairly consistent throughout. Traffic on Route 89 kept background levels at about 55 dB with spikes up to 75 dB when cars passed.

With music on, the sound levels were significantly louder directly near the source, as anticipated. At 200 feet, the sound level was measured at 68-75 dB, the same peak noise levels that were measured in the background levels due to passing vehicles on Route 89. At 500 feet, the sound level was only just above what the background levels were measured at due to the consistent traffic. Additionally, the topography helped to create a natural sound barrier as we travelled further up Route 89. Shortly after 1,000 feet, the music was indistinguishable from the background sound.

5.0 State Park Locations

The music was audible at the beach area, however it was not considered to be at a disturbing level in this location due to the high background levels, which were measured at 55-65 dB. This was due to all of the other background noise from the active beachfront and the traffic on Route 89. With the music on, the level only slightly increased with noise levels still around a normal conversation level (between 55 to 65 dB). At the closest campground (site number 32) which is just over 1,000 feet away from the source, the music was just barely audible. The rushing water in the gorge below the campground area was louder than the distant music. The music was not audible at the closest cabin area (site number 17) which is over 2,000 feet away. These locations can be seen in the attached decibel reading map.

6.0 Analysis

The results that were obtained from the sound test can be extrapolated in order to predict the estimated noise level given a different source volume. Assuming a reduction in volume to an estimated source level of 95 dB, this would reduce the noise level to just under 54 dB at 175 feet, the approximated distance to the property line. Therefore, given a reduction in music volume, it is very feasible for the Inn to achieve a noise regulation of 55dB after 11 pm at the property boundaries.

7.0 Conclusions

The results of the sound level test indicated that music played at the level tested would not have an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Noise levels over 65dB occurred within 500 feet of the source, and thus are contained within the Inn at Taughannock property. The music is audible beyond the property limits up to 1,000 feet away, but is at or below normal conversation levels.

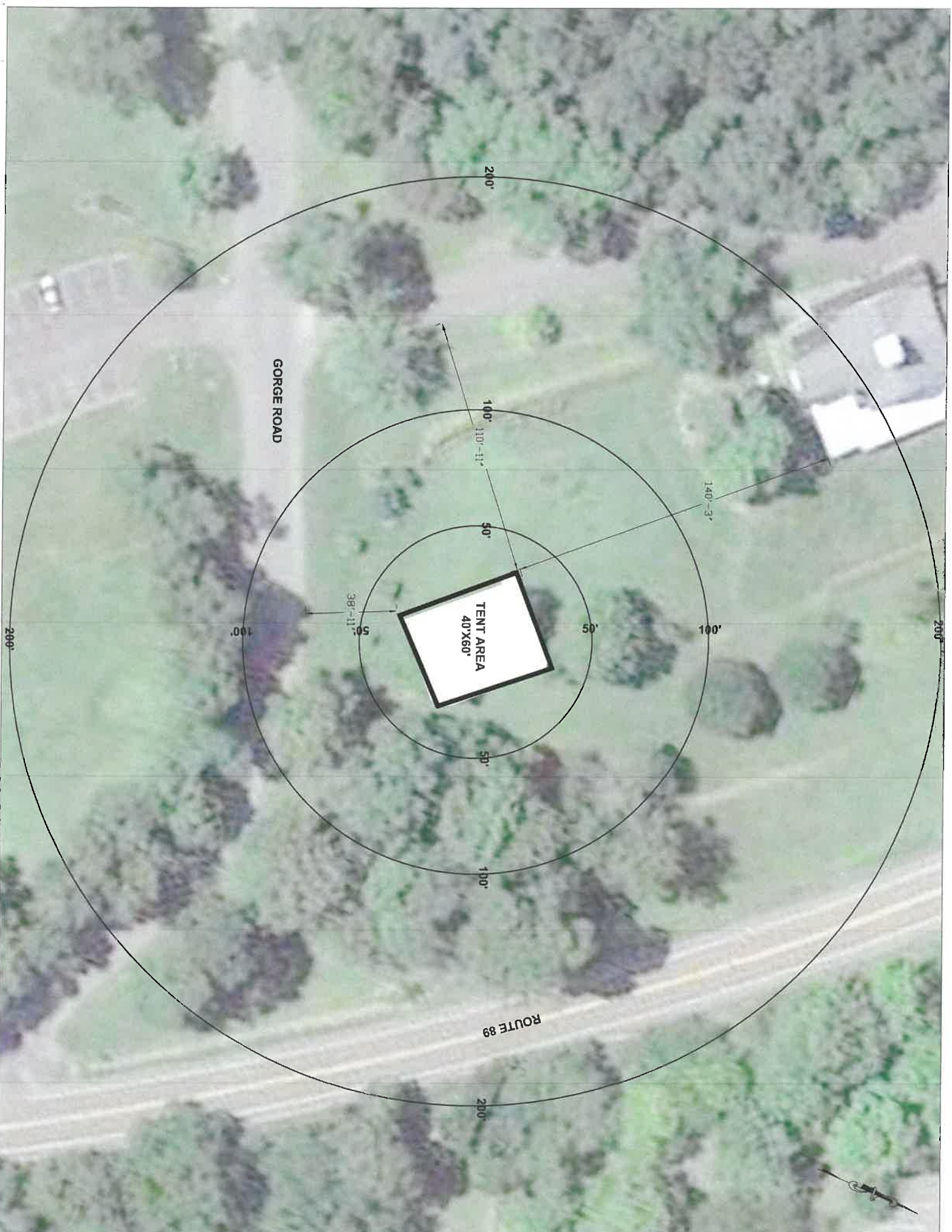


Regarding the state park property, the music was audible on the beach, but not at levels that would be disruptive, especially considering that the beach area would not be active after dark. Background noise was significant at times due to the high volume of traffic on Route 89. The music was barely audible at the campgrounds and not audible in the cabin area.

The result of the sound level study indicates that music being played at an outdoor event for the Inn at Taughannock will not have an adverse impact on the adjoining/off-site properties and will not be disruptive to the immediate neighborhood.



**APPENDIX A
RADIUS MAPS**



GORGE ROAD

TENT AREA
40' X 60'

ROUTE 89

200'

100'

38'-11"

50'

100'

110'-11"

50'

100'

140'-3"

100'

200'

200'



1/2 MILE

1/2 MILE

1/2 MILE

2000'

GORGE ROAD

1000'

2000'

ROUTE 89

500'

1000'

200'

500'

500'

ROUTE 89

1000'

2000'

1000'

1/2 MILE





**APPENDIX B
RECORDING LOGS**



**APPENDIX C
DECIBEL READING MAP**

