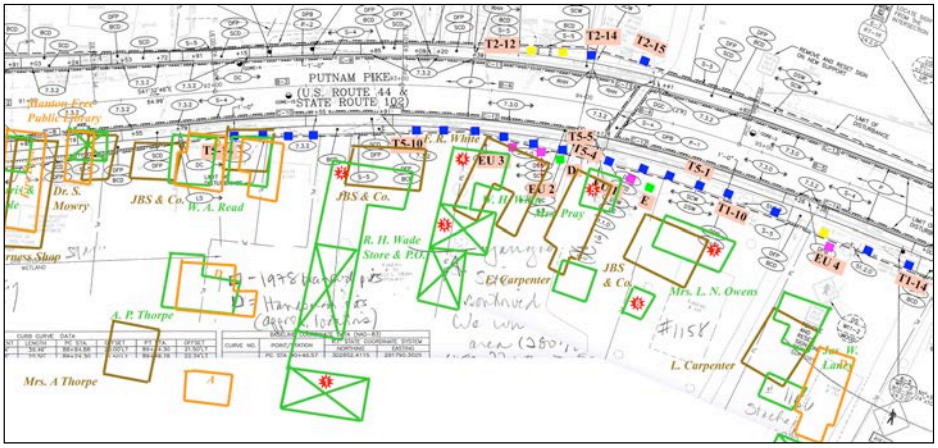
PHASE IB AND II ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
RECONSTRUCTION OF U.S. ROUTE 44
CHEPACHET, RHODE ISLAND

RIDOT, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, is planning the reconstruction of a 1.5-mile-long portion of Route 44 through the village of Chepachet in Glocester, Rhode Island. This narrow very heavily-travelled road will be widened, sidewalks installed or replaced, and intersections reconfigured. AHS is presently in the final stage of completing a report on our archaeological investigations, which occurred in late 2010 and the spring and summer of 2011. AHS identified over a dozen historic-period sites in the Phase I survey. Phase II excavations were conducted at seven sites, in order to assess their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Archaeologists excavate meter units in Phase II of the investigation.

This project, conducted for Commonwealth Engineers, involved coordination with RIDOT, the Glocester Heritage Society, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, and the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Extensive documentary research was also part of the project. In addition, Chepachet Bridge No. 100 over the Chepachet River, was documented to RIHRA standards.

The 18th-century Dr. Reuben Mason House at the east end of the project area.



As part of the preliminary research, footprints of buildings as shown on three different historic maps were plotted on the project plans.