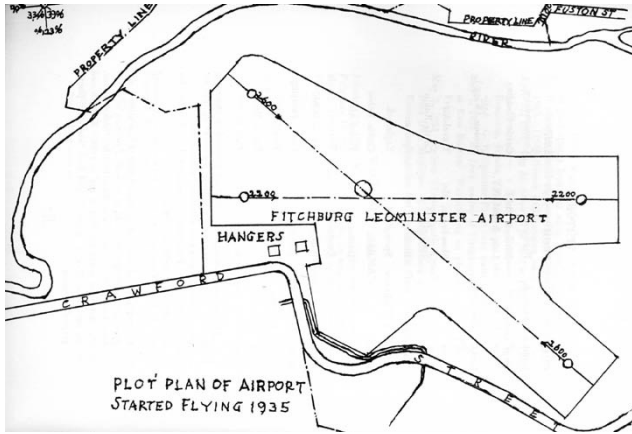


Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey Fitchburg Municipal Airport Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey adjacent to the Fitchburg Municipal Airport in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Vegetation clearing was proposed in nine parcels as part of aviation easement acquisitions. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) was located along the North Nashua River, a tributary of the Merrimac River, and totaled approximately 33 acres. Fitchburg was incorporated in 1764 and named after John Fitch and his family who were captured by Indians in 1748, taken to Canada, and later redeemed. The survey included environmental, archaeological, and



historical background research. A walkover assessment of the APE, however, including core samplings, revealed pervasive disturbance. The areas along the river that appeared to be undeveloped were found to have been disturbed by sewer and access road construction as well as trash-dumping and earthmoving activities related to a former landfill and gravel- and sand-mining operations. AHS found no evidence of historic-period buildings, structural remains, or cultural features. Based on the results of the reconnaissance survey, the APE was determined to have low archaeological sensitivity. The proposed aviation clearing would not likely impact any historical or archaeological resources in the project area, thus no further archaeological work was recommended.

In a related historic building survey, MHC architectural forms were completed for the airport control tower and hangars.

