

**Phase I, II and III Archaeological Survey, Historical Documentation
and Publications
Former Norwich State Hospital Property
Norwich and Preston, Connecticut**

In January 2005 the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) contracted with AHS to conduct archaeological investigations and historical documentation of cultural resources located on the former Norwich State Hospital property in Norwich and Preston, Connecticut. A limited Phase IB Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the 472-acre property was initiated in 2000. In 2005, under an aggressive 15-month timetable, AHS completed the Phase IB survey, conducted Phase II investigations to determine the National Register eligibility of identified archaeological sites, and conducted several Data Recovery excavations. Several thousand test pits were dug. Additional tasks included photographic documentation of historic engineering, railroad and waterfront features, updating of architectural survey forms for the former hospital buildings, photographic documentation of hospital buildings, prehistoric and historic background research, preparation of a comprehensive cultural resource management plan, a public-



Midden Deposit at the E. Story House.

oriented State Archaeological Preserve (SAP) booklet on two World War II plane crash sites, and a comprehensive multi-volume report. The surveys identified cultural resources which represent occupation of the project area from the Paleoindian period to the 20th century. The resources include dozens of archaeological sites, representing every period of prehistory; a Revolutionary War tavern and shipyard site; remains of the Norwich and Westerly electric railway; water supply features associated with the hospital; and two 19th-century dikes in the Thames

River which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The 18th-century tavern and shipyard sites were designated State Archaeological Preserves; AHS staff wrote a public-oriented booklet on the site in 2011.