

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY SHELTON RIVERWALK
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT**

The City of Shelton proposed to construct a recreational riverwalk along the western bank of the Housatonic River within the Shelton Canal Industrial District, a National Register of Historic Places-eligible property. The District's contributing components include the Derby-Shelton dam, headgates and canals, several tailraces, a large stone retaining wall, and remaining historic industrial complexes in Shelton. The construction of the dam and canal, one of the state's largest 19th-century engineering projects, was the reason Shelton developed into a small industrial city. AHS conducted a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the proposed riverwalk to identify industrial resources which may be affected by the project. The survey included extensive background research, on-site inspection on foot and by small watercraft, and photographic documentation of existing conditions at low tide. AHS determined that the project area had been heavily disturbed by large-scale land-forming activities, including the construction of the canal and adjacent streets, intensive factory construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and recent demolition of factory buildings. The effects of the proposed riverwalk project on the Shelton Canal Industrial District were determined to be primarily indirect, including the proposed construction of walkway railings, scenic overlooks, a canoe launch, and pier structures. The project's impacts on historic resources were not considered an adverse effect, thus no additional archeological investigations were recommended.



Tailrace arch in a retaining wall along the Housatonic River at low tide within the Shelton Canal Industrial District