

Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Excavation Ephraim Sprague Homestead Site Andover, Connecticut

As part of U.S. Route 6 improvements, the Connecticut Department of Transportation extended Lake Road to Route 6 in Andover. AHS conducted a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the project area in 1997. The survey identified buried 18th- and 19th-century and pre-Colonial Native American artifacts in the alignment. A Phase II survey was conducted in the spring of 1998, and SHPO determined that the site met the criteria for inclusion on the National Register.



1705 Sprague House Cellar, Andover, CT

forks, tools, cloth, bone and plant food remains. The house plan appears to be a type of hybrid cross-passage house. Seventeenth-century archaeological examples of this basic house form, which originated in Britain, have been found in New England and the Chesapeake; the Sprague house may be the only 18th century example found to date. The Data Recovery excavations showed that the Spragues had a diversified household economy, with a mix of domestic and wild foods. They ate wild game such as black bear, deer, and beaver, and caught fish in the local rivers. They raised pigs, cattle for meat and dairy products, and sheep for mutton and wool which they spun into yarn and wove into cloth on their own loom. The Sprague Site is one of the most extensively excavated and important household sites in southern New England. The Data Recovery brought forth new information on the architecture, crafts and foodways and other lifeways of one of Connecticut's original Yankee families.

The Data Recovery results are the subject of an AHS-designed web site: www.ahs-inc.biz/Sprague/.

A Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery excavation was undertaken. Excavations uncovered the remains of the c. 1705 - c. 1750s house of Ephraim Sprague. The Sprague house measured 64' x 16', with a deep stone-lined cellar and a bulkhead entrance in the southern part of the house, a central fireplace, and a shallow dug-out cellar and corner chimney at the northern end. Basin-shaped food-storage pits were found in the sandy floor of the south cellar. The archaeological data indicated that the house burned down sometime in the 1750s. A total of 211,291 artifacts were

recovered, including a complete tea set, tankards and milkpans, table knives and