

Archaeological Survey Former Norwich State Hospital Property Norwich and Preston, Connecticut

In January 2005 the State of Connecticut 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 I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the 472-acre property was initiated in 2000. In 2005, under an aggressive 15-month timetable, AHS completed 4000-test pit Phase I survey and Phase II investigations to determine the National Register eligibility of 30 identified archaeological sites, and conducted four large-scale Data Recovery excavations. Also part of the study were photographic documentation of historic engineering, railroad and waterfront features, photo-documenting and updating architectural survey forms for the 100 former hospital buildings, and preparation of an integrated cultural resource management plan. Two sites were designated State Archaeological Preserves, a World War II plane crash site, and a Revolutionary War-era tavern and shipyard. Public education booklets were written on each Preserve.



*Midden Deposit at the 18th-century E. Story House at
Norwich State Hospital.*

The surveys identified a thematic pre-colonial Native American archaeological district organized around the diachronic resource availability along the Thames River and its effects on technology and settlement organization. Archaeological sites represent occupation of the project area from the Paleoindian period to the 20th century.