

Historical Documentation, Architecture and Engineering Survey 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. The 472-acre property includes dozens of standing structures from the late 19th century to the late 20th century. The hospital complex is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. However, all but one or two of the buildings have deteriorated to the point that their

restoration is not feasible, thus most of the buildings will be demolished. As part of this project, AHS prepared photographic documentation of the hospital buildings in order to record their conditions just before demolition. We also updated the architectural survey forms for the former hospital buildings. In addition to the historic building

documentation, AHS also completed an inventory and photographic documentation of historic engineering, railroad and waterfront features, including 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. It included preparation of a comprehensive cultural resource management plan, a public-oriented State Archaeological Preserve (SAP) booklet on two World War II plane crash sites, and a comprehensive multi-volume report.