

Thames River Dikes Historical Documentation Norwich and Preston, Connecticut

The State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) contracted with AHS to conduct archaeological investigations and historical documentation

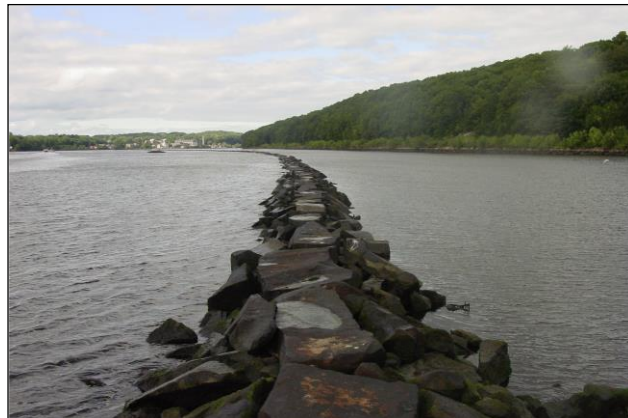


Mohegan Dike

of cultural resources located on the former Norwich State Hospital property in Norwich and Preston, along the Thames River.

Because proposed development of the 472-acre parcel includes a marina extending into the river, AHS undertook evaluation of two dikes in the vicinity: the Mohegan Dike and Long Rock Dike. The purpose of the dikes, built in 1883 and 1885, respectively, was to direct downstream flow and put an end to the frequent and costly dredging of the constantly filling channel. Also known as training walls, the U.S. Engineers were inspired by the success of dikes built in England. The Mohegan and Long Rock Dikes are part of a larger system of dikes, and are substantial stone structures, of riprap construction, essentially long linear piles of large stone that barely project above the water line. The Mohegan Dike includes wooden piles. Both dikes still function well today, and were determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Long Rock Dike