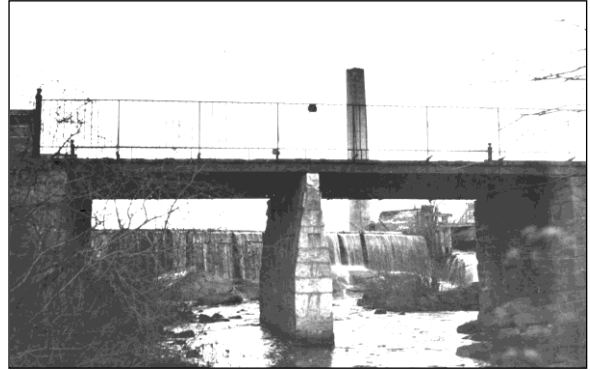


Phase I Archaeological Survey, Bridge Replacement of Wyoming Bridges Hopkinton and Richmond, Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation proposed replacing the bridges that cross the Wood River between the towns of Hopkinton and Richmond in the village of Wyoming, Rhode Island. The project will replace the two existing timber-stringer structures with a new concrete-beam structure. In addition to rebuilding the upper portion of the existing stone abutments and constructing a new wing wall at the northwest corner, the project will widen an intersection on the southern or Richmond side and require minor widening and alignment changes affecting the immediate roadside in the project area.



The Wyoming bridges in a 1913 photograph.



Stone dam and textile mill ruins at Wyoming.

The project area lies within the Wyoming Village Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Wyoming is a 19th-century textile mill village that earlier had been the site of the late 18th-century Samuel Brand ironworks. The State Historic Preservation Office required historic and prehistoric background research as well as Phase I(c) subsurface testing to determine if any mill ruins, evidence of the earlier ironworks, other archaeological remains would be impacted by the proposed construction.

AHS personnel conducted the required research and testing. Existing mill ruins were mapped and photographed. Both prehistoric and historic-period artifacts were found by the subsurface testing, but in extensively disturbed contexts. State of Rhode Island archaeological site forms were prepared. It was concluded that the project would not adversely affect the National Register-listed district.



Late 19th-century stoneware vessel (cross-mended).