



25 Huntington Avenue Boston, Massachusetts

Date of Performance: 1996–2000

Client: Raymond Property Company, LLC

PAL undertook archaeological and historic building surveys at the site of a proposed residential development in Boston's Back Bay. The archaeological reconnaissance survey demonstrated that the project site is located in proximity to the Boylston Street Fishweir, listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Back Bay Historic District. Remains of the Native American fishweir were first discovered in 1913 during subway construction, and consisted of vertical stakes driven into estuarine mud with twig and brush wattling woven between them. Nearby building excavations in 1939, 1946, and 1991 exposed continuous weir remains estimated to have been constructed 4,400 ago. PAL reviewed the composite data on the site and made recommendations for further assessment, with the objective of determining the likelihood for additional subterranean fishweir remains to be present. In addition to the Native American site, the project area encompassed the late-nineteenth century Hotel Huntington, another contributing element to the Back Bay Historic District.

PAL drafted a Memorandum of Agreement among the Massachusetts Historical Commission and Raymond Property Company, outlining stipulations to eliminate, minimize, or mitigate adverse project impacts. The PAL team coordinated project mitigation efforts including photographic documentation of the building to Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) standards and development of an archaeological monitoring plan. Large-format photography was performed by Warren Jagger Photography, Inc. of Providence, RI.



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A team of archaeologists worked with the construction crew as they excavated into the original estuarine deposits, to insure that additional remains of the fishweir were not at risk. The work was undertaken to assist the developer in meeting compliance with M.G. L. Ch. 9, Sections 26-27C and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

PAL SERVICES

- **MEPA CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **HAER DOCUMENTATION**
- **LARGE FORMAT PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTION MONITORING**