



Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Falmouth, Massachusetts

Date of Performance: 2001–2002

Client: Ellenzweig Associates

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is a private, non-profit research facility dedicated to the study of marine science, and is the largest independent oceanographic institution in the world. The 189-acre facility began as a research center in the nineteenth century. In 1875, Woods Hole was selected as headquarters for the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, dedicated to the study of fish management and conservation. The second scientific laboratory established near the federal agency in 1888 was the Marine Biological Laboratory, a summer research institute for the study of biology. The Oceanographic Institute was added to the facility's research focus in 1930. Later known as the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, it was incorporated in 1930 under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, Appointed Committee on Oceanography.

Between 2001 and 2002, archaeologists and architectural historians from PAL assisted the WHOI in addressing the concerns of the Cape Cod Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) with regard to implementation of their facility Master Plan. PAL archaeologists were asked to assess proposed road improvements, and to consider the archaeological potential of the entire property. Consultation was initiated with Wampanoag tribal members, WHOI staff, several local historical associations and libraries, and an expert in local history. Specific areas within the campus that were likely to contain archaeological sites were identified, mapped, and tested.

PAL also provided the information needed to determine National Register eligibility of an early-twentieth-century house and surrounding landscape, the last of six buildings that comprised a family compound. The WHOI campus was expanded in 1967 with the purchase of 138-acres, part of the former Fenno



*Architectural Plans for the 'Belfry'
Falmouth, 1924*

estate. Edward N. Fenno was a prominent Boston Wool Broker who purchased 190 acres in Falmouth in 1887 for the purposes of building a summer home. By 1902 the main house was completed. The estate grew with the addition of a small farmhouse, pump house, bathhouse, pier, and carriage house. In 1924, "the Belfry" was built for the Fenno's daughter Marion and her husband Arthur Wellington Bell. The residence was designed by Boston architect Charles Allerton Coolidge, noted for the design of many prominent medical facilities and institutions, including WHOI. When one of the last descendants of the Fenno family, Rosamond Fenno passed away in 1982, WHOI purchased the Belfry and additional acreage. The property is currently used for WHOI offices.

PAL SERVICES

- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**
- **FIELD SURVEY AND PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION**
- **NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION**