



Massachusetts Highway Department Statewide Open Services – Cultural Resources

Date of Performance: 2003–2005

Client: Massachusetts Highway Department

PAL's long-standing relationship with the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) dates to the establishment of PAL in 1982 when it was contracted to conduct archaeological investigations for improvements to Route 146 in central Massachusetts. Since that time, PAL has conducted cultural resource investigations in support of more than 75 MassHighway projects throughout the state, including Boston's Central Artery, Route 44 from Raynham to Carver, and Interstate 495 in the southeastern section of the state.

In July 2003, PAL was awarded its second two-year on-call services contract to assist MassHighway in complying with federal and state laws and regulations concerning the protection of historic and archaeological resources. Administered by MassHighway's Cultural Resource Section (CRS), the contract provides a convenient vehicle for obtaining PAL's services for proposed projects that fall under the department's Early Environmental Coordination for Design Projects Engineering Directive issued in 2002, which requires early coordination with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) during the 25 percent design phase.

PAL has conducted cultural resource investigations for more than 40 project areas under the on-call services agreement. The projects have included bridge modification and replacement, intersection improvements, the creation of multiuse bicycle trails, highway beautification and enhancement programs, and highway widening projects. Many of the assignments that PAL has completed have involved the preparation of cultural resource reports designed to provide information about known historic properties within the project area. These projects consist of a review of the files maintained by the MHC to identify documented historic and archaeological



Millbrook Sewer Portal, Worcester, MA

resources within the project's area of potential effect and the preparation of a written report that describes the resources and the potential impacts of the project on those properties that are listed or potentially eligible for listing in the State and/or National Register of Historic Places. These reports assist the MassHighway CRS by providing the information needed to initiate consultation with the MHC about potential project impacts on historic and/or archaeological properties. PAL has also conducted a number of archaeological and historic architectural surveys designed to evaluate the significance of previously undocumented properties. Other work has included the preparation of written and photographic historical documentation as mitigation for unavoidable adverse project impacts on historic buildings and structures.

PAL SERVICES

- **SECTIONS 106, 4(f), and NEPA CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **LARGE FORMAT PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION**
- **ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION**
- **NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATIONS**
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**