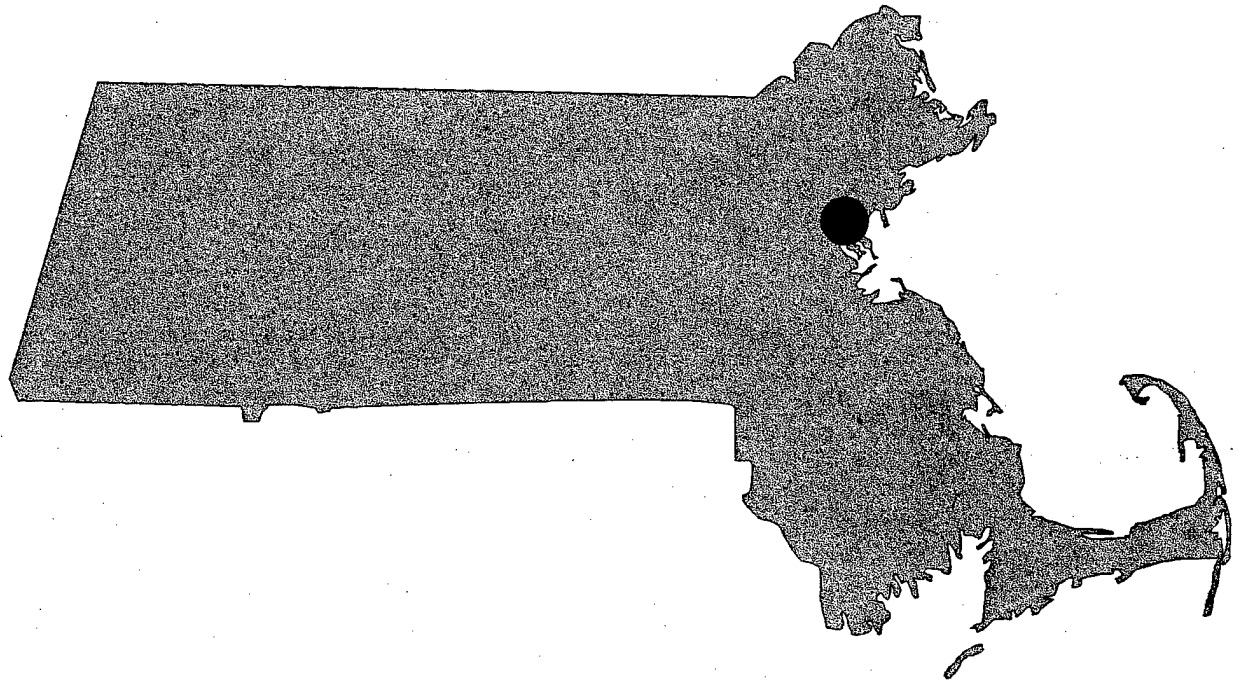




# COLLECTIONS SUMMARY FOR ARMY MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY, MASSACHUSETTS

**U.S. Army NAGPRA Compliance Project,  
Technical Report No. 61**



**Prepared for the  
U.S. Army Environmental Center,  
Environmental Compliance Division**

**by the  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
St. Louis District,  
*Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management  
of Archaeological Collections***

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS SUMMARY  
FOR ARMY MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**Information Provided for Compliance with the  
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act  
Section 6 Summary**

**Prepared for the  
U.S. Army Environmental Center,  
Environmental Compliance Division  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland**

**By  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
St. Louis District,  
Mandatory Center of Expertise for the  
Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections,  
U.S. Army NAGPRA Compliance Project,  
Technical Report No. 61**

**February 1996**

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## OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The U.S. Army Environmental Center (AEC) tasked the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (MCX) with the job of assisting Army installation personnel in complying with the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601, NAGPRA). The MCX was asked to locate and assess archaeological collections derived from Army-owned lands, to identify the federally recognized Native American tribes most likely culturally affiliated with the collections, to draft Section 6 Summary letters for each installation, and to conduct physical inventories of any collections that contain human skeletal remains. This report conveys the results of the collections research completed to assist the Army Materials Technology Laboratory (AMTL) in complying with the Section 6 Summary requirements of NAGPRA.

The MCX used a two-stage process to identify, locate, and assess the contents of archaeological collections from the installation. First, archival research was performed to review all archaeological site records and reports for the installation. Second, telephone interviews were conducted with personnel at installations, universities, museums, and archaeological contractors that were identified during the archival research as possible repositories of Army collections. The MCX did not physically verify the existence of collections and, as such, the information contained in this report is based on background record reviews and information obtained via telephone interviews with the aforementioned installation personnel and institution professionals.

Archival research for AMTL began with a search of the National Archeological Data Base (NADB) for references pertaining to the installation. This was followed by a thorough examination of all archaeological site forms and a literature review of all pertinent archaeological reports and manuscripts on file at the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston, Massachusetts. The records search was performed at the Historical Commission in May 1995 and sought to identify any work on the installation that may have produced archaeological collections.

Subsequent telephone interviews to potential collections repositories ascertained whether the materials were present and the range of objects in each collection. Once the collections were located and assessed, MCX personnel identified federally recognized Native American tribes that are likely to be culturally affiliated with the materials in the collections.

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## RESEARCH RESULTS

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT ARMY MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

The AMTL facility was originally established in 1816 under the name Watertown Arsenal, which developed into an important Army manufacturing and testing facility between circa 1860 and 1920. In 1968, fifty-five acres of the eastern portion of the Arsenal were sold to the Watertown Redevelopment Authority. The active Arsenal today, known as the Army Materials and Technology Laboratory, is situated on approximately 36.5 acres in Watertown, Massachusetts (Cherau and Miller 1995:3).

Archaeological work is known to have taken place on Watertown Arsenal during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the 1880s, avocational archaeologist George B. Frazar collected materials from several locations at the Arsenal. In the early 1900s, S.J. Guernsey of the Peabody Museum, Harvard, conducted salvage excavations and collected surface materials from some of the same locations on the installation that Frazar had visited. The locations visited by Frazar and/or Guernsey were later assigned site numbers 19MD175, 176, 332, and 373 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. However, since these early archaeological investigations were never formally reported, information about the work and any resulting collections is relatively sketchy.

As part of a study of a cremation burial complex in eastern Massachusetts, Dincauze (1968) reported on the work Guernsey conducted at the Arsenal. Dincauze reviewed records and collections found at the Peabody Museum regarding the salvage excavations at site M-24-3, which is now believed to be site 19MD332 (note to site file 19MD332 by Brona Simon, Massachusetts State Archaeologist, 1/16/96). The site had been believed to be a possible cremation burial; however, Dincauze concluded that although the features of the site were comparable to secondarily deposited cremation remains at other sites, the site was not demonstrably a cremation burial since Guernsey's notes do not mention ocher or calcined bone, two common cremation burial features.

No additional known archaeological investigations took place on Watertown Arsenal until after a large portion of property was sold in 1968 and the remaining section of the Arsenal was renamed Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center, which became AMTL in 1985

(Evinger 1995:114). Between 1984 and 1995, three organizations conducted archaeological investigations at AMTL. These organizations are:

Envirosphere Company, New York, NY  
The Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL), Inc., Pawtucket, RI  
Timelines, Inc., Littleton, MA

Investigations have consisted of an archaeological overview and management plan, systematic surveys and testing, analysis of soil borings, and monitoring of construction activities. Only work conducted by PAL, Inc. and Timelines, Inc., resulted in the collection of artifacts. PAL, Inc., is scheduled to continue archaeological investigations at the installation in the spring of 1996 (telephone conversation with Kate Atwood, Corps of Engineers-New England Division, 29 January 1996).

### SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

Only one of the four sites identified for Watertown Arsenal is currently on AMTL (19MD373). Sites 19MD175, 176 and 332 are located on land that is no longer Army property. However, as mentioned above, collections were made from those sites when they were Arsenal property and thus will be addressed in this report.

A total of approximately 450 to 550 artifacts has been identified as having been collected during archaeological investigations at the original Watertown Arsenal. These collections are currently housed at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Approximately 341 flaked and ground stone objects from the Arsenal were identified in collections donated by G.B. Frazar (Peabody numbers 99-30-10/56449-54487 and 84-3-10/33901-33915). Another 100 to 200 objects from the Arsenal were identified in Peabody collection 12-68, which includes quarry blocks, flaked and ground stone, charcoal, rocks, and cobbles collected on and near the Arsenal by S.J. Guernsey.

A total of approximately 321 artifacts has been identified for AMTL. Materials include prehistoric lithics, animal bone, and historic glass, metal, ceramics, coal, and iron. As of the date of this report, these collections were reportedly housed at the following institutions:

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, RI	~275 artifacts
Timelines, Inc., Littleton, MA	~46 artifacts

Appendix I provides more detailed information about the collections derived as a result of these archaeological investigations. Two collections summaries have been included to distinguish materials collected on the former Watertown Arsenal from those collected at AMTL. A collection consists of all of the materials, artifacts and associated documentation (e.g., field

notes, maps, photos, data analyses, correspondence), produced as a result of an archaeological investigation or project at a single site or multiple sites. Every attempt has been made to locate all collections cited on available archaeological site records or in published and unpublished references to archaeological investigations on the installation.

### **NAGPRA-Related Materials**

No human skeletal materials, funerary objects or sacred objects were identified by the MCX during its archival research of the site records, references, and telephone interviews regarding the archaeological collections from AMTL/Watertown Arsenal. The final determination of any funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony may be established upon further consultation with culturally affiliated Native American tribes according to the definitions and restrictions specified in NAGPRA.

## **REFERENCES TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Two sets of references regarding archaeological work conducted on AMTL are attached: Appendix II contains the list of references reviewed by the MCX during its archival research; Appendix III is the list of references contained in the National Archeological Data Base (NADB).

## **NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES ASSOCIATED WITH ARMY MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY**

The AMTL facility is located on the northern bank of the Charles River in Watertown, Massachusetts. No land claims were adjudicated for this area in the 1978 Indian Land Claims cases (U.S.G.S. n.d.). No federally recognized tribes are known to have inhabited the area occupied by AMTL.

According to Fitch and Glover (1989:30-31), the Charles River estuary appears to have functioned as a local core area of settlement and subsistence at the time of European contact. At that time, the area encompassed by present day Watertown was occupied by the Pequassette, a subgroup of the Massachusett (Fitch and Glover 1989:31). In 1630, English settlers found a well-established village of Pequassette at the head of the Charles River in Watertown, an area immediately west of the AMTL facility (Cherau and Miller 1995:33; Klein *et al.* 1984:2-10). Salwen (1978:161, 170) depicts Massachusett territory as roughly encompassing that portion of present-day eastern Massachusetts which extends from the Charles River on the north to modern Brockton, Massachusetts on the south.

According to Waldman (1988:125-126), the Massachusett ceased to exist as a tribal entity sometime during the seventeenth century. Disease, warfare, and the influence of Christian missionaries caused population losses and a decrease in tribal identity. The last recorded occupation of the Watertown area by native groups occurred during the late seventeenth century when several Praying Indian survivors, consisting of Massachusett and other Algonquian tribes who lived like Europeans and practiced the Puritan religion (Waldman 1988:125-126), were noted in the area (Fitch and Glover 1989:31). These survivors were eventually absorbed into other groups (Waldman 1988:125-126).

**SECTION 6 COMPLIANCE**

P.L. 101-601 (NAGPRA) requires that federal agencies engage in active consultation with Native Americans with federally recognized tribes and/or lineal descendants who may be culturally affiliated with the archaeological collections from the installation. None of the tribes referenced above has been federally recognized at this time, therefore no draft Section 6 Summary letter has been enclosed.

---

## REFERENCES CITED

Cherau, Suzanne G. and Beth P. Miller

- 1995 *Intensive Archaeological Survey, Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, Massachusetts*. Prepared by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division.

Dincauze, Dena Ferran

- 1968 *Cremation Cemeteries in Eastern Massachusetts*. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Volume 59, Number 1.

Evinger, William R.

- 1995 *Directory of U.S. Military Bases Worldwide*. Oryx Press, Phoenix.

Fitch, Virginia A. and Suzanne Glover

- 1989 *Historic and Prehistoric Reconnaissance Survey, Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, Massachusetts*. Prepared by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division and Daylor Consulting Group, Boston.

Klein, Joel I., Sydne B. Marshall, and Elise M. Brenner

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Salwen, Bert

- 1978 *Indians of Southern New England and Long Island: Early Period*. In *Northeast*, edited by Bruce G. Trigger, pp. 160-176. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Volume 15, William C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Waldman, Carl

- 1988 *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*. Facts on File Publications, New York.

U.S.G.S.

- n.d. *Indian Lands Judicially Established 1978*. Map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey for the Indian Claims Commission, Reston, Virginia.

## APPENDIX I

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT LOCATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS FROM ARMY MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

All collections information has been entered into a Paradox data base file and can be queried by any of the fields listed below, as well as by the name of the installation and by MACOM. The data base will be delivered by the MCX to the U.S. Army Environmental Center upon completion of the U.S. Army NAGPRA Compliance Project. Inquiries for additional information are welcome (MCX: 314-331-8865; U.S. Army Environmental Center NAGPRA Compliance Project: 410-671-1573). The data fields listed in the summary of collections contain the following information:

- REPOSITORY:** The current location in which the collection is stored, as of the date of this report.
- REPOSITORY POC:** The person contacted by the MCX, or the person to whom inquiries regarding the collection should be addressed.
- TELEPHONE:** The telephone number for the repository POC.
- COLLECTION ID:** The identifying unit used by the repository to store and/or locate the collection. This can be a unique accession number assigned by the repository, the archaeological site number or project name, the name of the collector of the collection, or another number or name assigned by the repository.
- SITE NUMBERS:** The official site number or name only for those sites from which materials were collected. An investigator may have performed work at additional sites but did not collect any materials. Those site numbers are not included in this field.
- FIELDWORK DATES:** The date(s) during which the investigation(s) occurred. This information is provided to differentiate between projects that may have investigated the same site repeatedly.
- EXCAVATOR/COLLECTOR:** The individual and/or organization that conducted the investigation.

**COLLECTION SIZE:** The volume or number of objects in a collection, estimated by the repository POC or from project reports.

**DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS:** General material classes of the objects in the collection derived from data provided on site records, in references, and/or by the Repository POC.

**ANTIQUITY/ARCH. PERIOD:** Chronological or cultural-historical designations recorded on site records or in references specific to the collection.

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** This column contains only those ethnic identifications found in the site records or references specific to the collection. This field is left blank if no such information was recorded.

**BASIS OF DETERMINATION:** Documents the source of the cultural affiliation information (e.g., site record, oral testimony, reference).

**SECTION 5 MATERIALS:** Describes the number and kind of human skeletal remains and associated funerary objects in the collection, as indicated by the site records, references, repository management documents, or information from repository POC. If these materials are present or are suspected to be present, NAGPRA Section 5 requires a physical inventory of the materials.

Summary of Current Location of Archaeological

As of Febru

Repository	Repository POC	Telephone	Collection ID	Site Numbers	Fieldwork Dates
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, RI	Suzanne Cherau	(401) 728-8780			1995
Timelines, Inc., Littleton, MA	Michael Roberts	(508) 486-0688			1994

Summary of Current Location of Archaeological Collections From: Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Massachusetts [AMC]

As of February 1996

Site Numbers	Fieldwork Dates	Excavator/Collector	Collection Size	Description of Materials	Antiquity/Archaeological Period	Cultural Affiliation
	1995	The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.	~ 275 Objects	Prehistoric Lithics, Animal Bone; Historic Glass, Coal & Iron	Archaic-Woodland; 19th-20th Century Historic	
	1994	Timelines, Inc.	~46 Objects (~ 1.5 cu. ft.)	Historic Ceramics, Metal, Bottle Glass	Historic	

②



Summary of Current Location of Archaeological C

As of Febru

Repository	Repository POC	Telephone	Collection ID	Site Numbers	Fieldwork Dates	
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University, MA	John Stubbs	(617) 496-3702	12-68-10/91281-91330; 91331-91333; 91351-91353	19MD175/176/332?	1912	S Pe
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University, MA	John Stubbs	(617) 496-3702	84-3-10/33901-33915	19MD373	1880's	G A Ar
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University, MA	John Stubbs	(617) 496-3702	99-30-10/56449-56487	19MD175/176/332?	1880's	G A Ar

Summary of Current Location of Archaeological Collections From: Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts [AMC]

As of February 1996

Collection ID	Site Numbers	Fieldwork Dates	Excavator/Collector	Collection Size	Description of Materials	Antiquity/
2-68-10/91281-1330; 91331-91333; 1351-91353	19MD175/176/332?	1912	S.J. Guernsey, Peabody Museum	Between 100 & 200 Objects	Quarry Blocks, Flaked & Ground Stone, Charcoal, Rocks, Cobbles	Archaic-V
1-3-10/33901-33915	19MD373	1880's	G.B. Frazar, Avocational Archaeologist	~ 250 Objects	Flaked & Ground Stone	Late Arch:
1-30-10/56449-487	19MD175/176/332?	1880's	G.B. Frazar, Avocational Archaeologist	~ 91 Objects	Flaked & Ground Stone	Archaic-V

2

Senal, Massachusetts [AMC]

Size	Description of Materials	Antiquity/Archaeological Period	Cultural Affiliation	Basis of Determination	Section 5 Materials
20 cts	Quarry Blocks, Flaked & Ground Stone, Charcoal, Rocks, Cobbles	Archaic-Woodland			N
cts	Flaked & Ground Stone	Late Archaic			N
cts	Flaked & Ground Stone	Archaic-Woodland			N

## APPENDIX II

### MCX LIST OF REFERENCES

In addition to the references reviewed by MCX personnel at the archaeological site information center, every attempt was made to obtain references cited but not on file. Information taken from these references was coded for data relating to collections made from sites located on installation property (see attached sample of PD-C Bibliographic Data Sheet form) and entered into a data base for ease of manipulation.

Report titles were drawn directly from the title page of reports, and consist of the following fields:

FIELD	DATA ENTERED
Subject Property	Army Installation name
Last Name	Primary author's last name
First Name	Primary author's first name
Middle Initial	Primary author's middle initial
Secondary Authors	Names of secondary authors, <i>or</i> in instances where the author is a company rather than an individual, the company name is listed here
Title	Title of the reference. For letter reports, the person or agency to whom the correspondence is addressed is listed as the title.
Series	If the report is part of a publication series, the name and number are provided here.
Date	Date of publication or submission
Length	Report length in pages
Contract Number	Contract number and delivery order number, if applicable

The data for the next three fields are drawn directly from the report title page and reflect the hierarchy of contracting agencies involved in accomplishing the work. In some cases, the sponsoring agency is listed as the Army installation; in others, the intermediary contracting agent, (e.g., the Army Corps of Engineers or the National Park Service) is listed as the Sponsoring Agency.

Sponsoring Agency	Agency for which the report was prepared
Contractor	The agent contracted to perform the work
Subcontractor	The agent subcontracted to perform the work

The majority of the citations for archaeological investigations on Army land refer to unpublished reports prepared under contract with federal agencies, consequently the MCX printout was designed to address these reports. In instances where the author is a company rather than an individual, the company name is listed in the Secondary Authors field (due to the length of the field). For published references, the publisher is listed in the Sponsoring Agency field.

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Fieldwork  
Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

NADB No.

PD-C Collection No.

## PD-C Bibliography Data Sheet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Information obtained by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PD-C Project:**

**Subject Property:**

**Repository (name and location):**

**Record Collection Name/Number:**

**Report Date and Length (in pages):**

**Author(s):**

**Title:**

**Contractor/Address or Publisher/Address (city, state):**

**Subcontractor/Address (city, state):**

**Report Series and Number:**

**Contract/Purchase Order Number(s):**

**Sponsoring Agency/Address:**

**Project Name and Location:**

**Principal Investigator(s)/Director(s):**

**Fieldwork Dates:**

**Type of Investigation (e.g., survey, testing, mitigation):**

PD-C Bibliography Data Sheet (continued)

**Site Numbers:**

**Archaeological Period (e.g., Hohokam, Mississippian):**

**Material Classes (range):**

**Artifact Collections and Locations:**

Approximate Size of Collections (e.g., number of objects):

**Record Collections and Locations:**

**NAGPRA Materials (Check if present)**

Human Skeletal Remains \_\_\_\_\_

Objects

Associated Funerary \_\_\_\_\_

Unassociated Funerary \_\_\_\_\_

Sacred \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Patrimony \_\_\_\_\_

Human Skeletal Remains Data Sheet   
Number of Attached Sheets \_\_\_\_\_

Object Data Sheet   
Number of Attached Sheets \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation(s):**

Basis for Affiliation Determination (e.g., geographic location, burial practices):

**Comments:**

MCX List of References for Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Massachusetts [AMC] as of February 1996

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : First name : Middle Initial :

Secondary Authors :

Title : Massachusetts Historical Commission State Survey Project: Prehistoric Survey Team Interim Report, July 1980

Series :

Date : 07/80 Length : 87 Contract Number :

Sponsoring Agency : Massachusetts Historic Commission

Contractor :

Subcontractor :

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : Cherau First name : Suzanne Middle Initial : G.

Secondary Authors : Beth P. Miller

Title : Intensive Archaeological Survey, Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, Massachusetts

Series : PAL Inc., Report No. 534

Date : 09/95 Length : 100 Contract Number : DACA33-94-D-0001

Sponsoring Agency : US Army Corps of Engineers-New England Division

Contractor : The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Subcontractor :

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : Dincauze First name : Dena Middle Initial : Ferran

Secondary Authors :

Title : Cremetation Cemeteries in Eastern Massachusetts

Series : Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. 59, No. 1

Date : 1968 Length : 125 Contract Number :

Sponsoring Agency : Peabody Museum, Harvard, MA

Contractor :

Subcontractor :

MCX List of References for Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Massachusetts [AMC] as of February 1996

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : Fitch

First name : Virginia

Middle Initial :

Secondary Authors : Suzanne Glover

Title : Historic and Prehistoric Reconnaissance Survey, Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, Massachusetts

Series :

Date : 09/89

Length : 107

Contract Number : DACA33-88-D-0006

Sponsoring Agency : US Army Corps of Engineers-New England Division

Contractor : The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Subcontractor :

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : Klein

First name : Joel

Middle Initial : I.

Secondary Authors : Sydne B. Marshall & Elise M. Brenner

Title : An Archeological Overview & Management Plan for the Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center

Series : DARCOM Report No. 2

Date : 08/84

Length : 75

Contract Number : CX4000-3-0018

Sponsoring Agency : National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA

Contractor : EnviroSphere Company

Subcontractor :

Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA

Last name : Roberts

First name : Michael

Middle Initial :

Secondary Authors :

Title : Analysis of Archaeological Potential from Soil Borings at the Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown, Massachusetts

Series :

Date : 09/93

Length : 195

Contract Number : DAAA15-90-D-0009

Sponsoring Agency : US Army Environmental Center - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Contractor : Weston

Subcontractor :

**MCX List of References for Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Massachusetts [AMC] as of February 1996**

**Subject property : Army Materials Technology Laboratory, MA**

**Last name : Roberts**

**First name : Michael**

**Middle Initial :**

**Secondary Authors :**

**Title : Archaeological Monitoring of Pre-Design Investigation Test Pits at the Army Research Laboratory (ARL-WT)  
Watertown, Massachusetts**

**Series :**

**Date : 12/94**

**Length : 46**

**Contract Number :**

**Sponsoring Agency : ABB Environmental Services, Inc., Portland, ME**

**Contractor : Timelines, Inc.**

**Subcontractor :**

## APPENDIX III

### NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA BASE REFERENCES FOR AMTL

No attempt has been made to edit the National Archeological Data Base format or to correct obvious errors.

Klein, Joel I., Sydne B. Marshall, and Elise M. Brenner

1984 An Archeological Overview and Management Plan for the Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center. EnviroSphere Co., Ny, NY. Submitted to Nps, Philadelphia, PA.