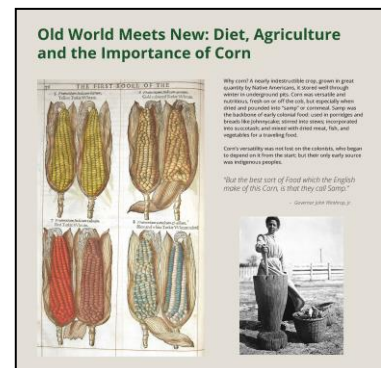
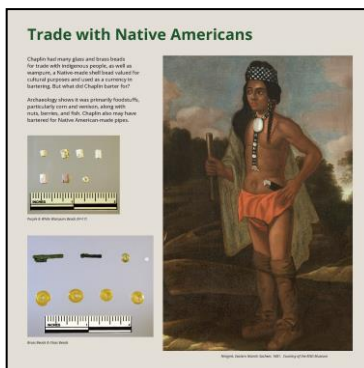


Interpretive Panels Webb Deane Stevens (WDS) Museum Wethersfield, Connecticut



During the WDS Museum's Education and Visitor Center building project, PAST conducted the archaeological excavations required by state bonding. PAST also produced the images and text for the Center's inaugural exhibition on the earliest archaeological discoveries. The excavations revealed the first evidence of English town

settlement in Connecticut, associated with the now-gone Clement Chaplin house that stood on WDS property. The ca. 1636 house was fortified by surrounding palisade walls. Artifacts include shell and glass trade beads, European coins, clay smoking pipes and ceramics, clothing fasteners, furniture hardware, animal bones, and charred plant remains. The fortified walls support historical



records of a time of unrest for colonist-Native American relations in the 1630s. Analysis of botanical data and faunal remains shed light on the diets, farming, and animal husbandry practices of the site's 17th-century occupants. WDS is planning additional grant-funded exploration of the 17th century component, with associated public education programs. Future exhibits will focus on several 18th-century occupations of the property, in keeping with WDS's new mission of incorporating archaeological studies into its research and educational programs.



Exhibit photography by Peter Brown