

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT



Cultural Resources are evidence of past human activity. These include sites, districts, buildings, structures and objects significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. Some examples are old homes, buildings or roads; bridges and other engineering structures; precontact village sites; historic or precontact artifacts or objects; rock inscriptions; earthworks such as battlefield entrenchments, precontact canals or mounds; and shipwrecks. Cultural Resources are nonrenewable and often yield unique information, sometimes over thousands of years, about past societies and environments. They also provide answers for modern-day social and conservation problems.

Section 106 Review

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out or fund. A Section 106 review must be done.

Information is gathered to decide if any properties in the area are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

It is determined how historic properties might be affected by the project and whether any of those effects would be considered adverse.

Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties are explored. A final report is submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and approval.

Literature & Records Search

Identify known historical and archaeological sites or properties within or near the project area. Provides context for recognizing any possible cultural resources that might be affected by the project.



Field Work

In-person examination of the project site. Can include shovel tests to determine if the soil contains any cultural remains not visible on the surface. Soil is sifted through wire mesh to recover artifacts.

Artifacts Analysis

Artifacts recovered are analyzed by either in-house archaeologists or a laboratory to determine age, origin, and cultural significance. Results may require further assessments of the site before proceeding with the project.



Final Report

Once field work and analysis are complete, a final report is prepared detailing methodologies and findings. A site or property may be recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Did You Know?



The oldest urban civilization was Sumer, thought to be settled between 4500 to 4000 B.C. The city-state of Uruk, located in present-day Iran, had a population of between 40,000 and 80,000 people.



The oldest human artifacts are handmade stone anvils, cores and flakes created by hominids 3.3 million years ago. They were unearthed in Kenya and are the oldest tools ever found.

