STATEMENT OF WORK

Cultural Resources Evaluations

Colorado

The deliverables listed below apply to this individual cultural resources compliance activity. For other planned cultural resources compliance deliverables refer to those specific Statements of Work.

NOTE: NRCS retains responsibility for all decision-making and consultation required of Federal agencies related to compliance with several resources protection laws, including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Technical Service Providers area expected to gather information to enable NRCS' compliance with the NHPA and must meet the Secretary of Interior's professional qualification standards as specified in Section 112(a)(1)(A) of the Act and in the implementing regulations for section 106 of the NHPA at 800.2(a)(1) and 800.2(a)(3). Such TSPs shall be used in accordance with 800.2(a)(3) ("Use of Contractors"). Technical Service Providers shall work with the program participants to ensure that all approvals, authorities, rights, permits, and easements necessary for conduct of this cultural resources activity have been obtained prior to implementation of the work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATIONS

References

- Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106
- 36 CFR 800; Protection of Historic Properties
- NRCS National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook
- NRCS General Manual 420 Part 401
- NRCS National Environmental Compliance Handbook

Professional Qualification Standards

The principal investigator and anyone functioning as lead field investigator must meet the minimum professional qualifications listed in the "Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines" for the type of services needed:

History
Archeology
Architectural History
Architecture
Historic Architecture

Evaluations

Evaluation is the process of determining whether identified properties meet defined criteria of significance and therefore should be included in an inventory of historic properties determined to meet the criteria. All work must comply with Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws.

Evaluation is completed with a written determination that a property is or is not significant based on provided information. This written determination is made by NRCS from the recommendations of the completed evaluation documentation requirements.

Research Design

1. Historic Context (Consult State Preservation plan, if applicable)
2. Methods used to obtain information (e.g. archival research, evaluation criteria)
3. Expected Results

Archival Research

1. Background research sources (e.g. state site files, historical maps, informant information, oral history, and other studies)

Criteria

The purpose of evaluation criteria should be made clear

1. Content of Criteria:
    a. Criteria should be appropriate in scale to the purpose of the evaluation
    b. Criteria should be categorical and not attempt to describe in detail every property likely to qualify
    c. Criteria should outline the disciplines or broad areas of concern included within the scope of the inventory

2. Information Needed to Evaluate Properties:
    The criteria should be accompanied by a statement defining the minimum information necessary to evaluate properties to ensure that this information is collected. Generally, at least the following will be needed:
    a. Adequately developed historic contexts, including identified property types.
    b. Sufficient information about the appearance, condition and associative values of the property to be evaluated to:
        i. Classify it as to property type;
        ii. Compare its features or characteristics with those expected for its property type; and
        iii. Define the physical extent of the property and accurately locate the property.

Application of the Criteria within a Historic Context

The first step in evaluation is considering how the criteria apply to the particular historic context. This is done by reviewing the previously developed narrative for the historic context and determining how the criteria would apply to properties in that context, based on the important patterns, events, persons and cultural values identified.

1. Consideration of Property Type and Integrity:
    After considering how the criteria apply to the particular historic context, the evaluation process for a property generally includes the following steps:
    a. A property is classified as to the appropriate historic context(s) and property type(s). If no existing property type is appropriate, a new property type is defined, its values identified, and the specific characteristics or data requirements are outlined and justified as an addition to the historic context.
    b. A comparison is made between the existing information about the property and the integrity characteristics or data required for the property type.
        i. If the comparison shows that the property possesses these characteristics, then it is evaluated as significant for that historic context.
        ii. If the comparison shows that the property does not meet the minimum requirements, one of several conclusions is reached:
            1. The property is determined not significant because it does not retain the integrity defined for the property type.

2. The property has characteristics that may make it significant but these differ from those expected for that property type in that context. In this case, the historic context or property types should be reexamined and revised if necessary.

The evaluation should state how the particular property meets the integrity requirements for its type.

Inventory

An inventory is a repository of information on specific properties evaluated as significant

1. Content: The inventory should include:
    a. Summaries of the important historic contexts. These may be in the form of an approved plan or analysis of historic contexts important in the history of the geographical area covered by the inventory.
    b. Descriptions of significant property types of these contexts, whether or not any specific properties have been identified.
    c. Results of field surveys or other identification activities, even if the level of information on specific properties identified as part of those activities is not sufficient to evaluate the properties.
    d. Information on individual properties that was used in evaluation.
        - Historic contexts are identified by name, with reference to documents describing those contexts, or with a narrative statement about the context(s) where such documents do not exist
        - A description of the property. Part of this description may be a photographic record.
        - A statement that justifies the significance of the property in relation to its context(s). This statement should include an analysis of the integrity of the property.
        - Boundaries of the property.
        - A record of when a property was evaluated and included in the inventory, and by whom.
        - Records on demolished or altered properties and properties evaluated as not significant should be retained, along with full descriptions of areas surveyed.

2. Maintenance: Inventory entries should be maintained so that they accurately represent what is known about historic properties in the area covered by the inventory.

3. Uses and Availability
    a. An inventory should be managed so that the information is accessible
    b. It is necessary to protect information about archeological sites or other properties whose integrity may be damaged by widespread knowledge of their location

Deliverables

Documentation

The type of evaluation documentation needed will depend upon the type of properties being evaluated. The following describes two types of documentation most frequently used by NRCS and when they would be used:

Architectural and Engineering Documentation
Archaeological Documentation

For other forms of documentation, including but not limited to historical and ethnographic documentation, refer to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716).

1. Architectural and Engineering Documentation
   This type of documentation is for historic buildings, sites, structures and objects. This documentation usually consists of measured drawings, photographs, and written data. This documentation should be sufficient to apply the evaluation criteria.
   a. Requirement: Documents shall adequately explain and illustrate what is significant or valuable about the historic building, site, structure, or object being documented.
   b. Criteria: Documents shall meet the following:
      i. Measured Drawings: Measured drawings shall be produced from recorded, accurate measurements. No part of the measured drawings shall be produced form hypothesis or non-measurement related activities.
      ii. Large Format Photographs: Large format photographs shall clearly depict the appearance of the property and areas of significance of the recorded building, site structure or object. Each view shall be perspective-corrected and fully captioned.
      iii. Written History: Written history and description shall be based on primary sources to the greatest extent possible. The written data shall include a methodology section specifying name of researcher, date of research, sources searched, and limitations of the project.
   c. Application of evaluation criteria and results/recommendations

2. Archaeological Documentation
   Archaeological documentation is a series of actions applied to properties of archaeological interest.
   a. Documentation Plan
      Research Design: Archaeological documentation can be carried out only after defining explicit goals and a methodology for reaching them. This research design should draw upon the preservation plan to identify:
      1. Evaluated significance of the property(ies) to be studied;
      2. Research problems or other issues relevant to the significance of the property;
      3. Prior research on the topic and property type;
      4. The amount and kinds of information (data) required to address the documentation objectives;
      5. Methods to be used to find the information.
   b. Documentation Methods
      i. Background Review: The background historical and archaeological research may exceed the level of research accomplished for the development of the relevant historic contexts for evaluation. This assists in directing the investigation and locates a broader base of information than contained in the property itself.
      ii. Field Studies: The implementation of the research design in the field must be flexible enough to accommodate the discovery of new or unexpected data classes or properties, or changing field conditions. Explicit descriptive statements of and justification for field study techniques are important to provide a means of evaluating results. An important consideration in choosing methods to be used in the field studies should be assuring accurate descriptions of all field work.
      iii. Analysis: Analysis of the collected information is an integral part of the documentation activity and should be planned for in the research design.
   c. Reporting Results:
      i. Description of study area;
      ii. Relevant historical documentation/background research;
      iii. The research design;
      iv. The field studies as actually implemented, including any deviations from the research design and the reason for the changes;
      v. All field observations;
      vi. Analysis and results, illustrated as appropriate with tables, charts, and graphs;
      vii. Application of evaluation criteria and results/recommendations

Backup Data

All field notes, pictures, drawings not contained in the above report are the property of NRCS and will be turned over to NRCS once report has been accepted by NRCS.

Curation

All artifacts found during the evaluations are the property of the landowner and shall be returned to the landowner as soon as possible after appropriate analysis is completed and final report is accepted by NRCS.