

STATEMENT OF WORK
Cultural Resources Identification Survey
Issued September 20, 2004
Contact: NRCS State Cultural Resources Specialist at 701-530-2097

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 are 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 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION SURVEYS

Identification surveys are conducted for the purpose of locating cultural resources within a project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) and consists of a number of activities which may be used independently or in combination with one another as appropriate for the level of investigation needed for the size and complexity of the project. All work must comply with Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws. The following is a list of these activities:

Research Design

1. Historic Context (Consult State Preservation plan, if applicable)
2. Methods used to obtain information (e.g. archival research, informant information, oral history, field survey)
3. Expected Results

Archival Research

Background research sources

Archival research or background research is undertaken prior to any field survey.

Possible sources should include, but are not limited to, historical maps, atlases, tax records, photographs, ethnographies, the state preservation plan, SHPO/state archaeologist or other state kept site files, National Register of Historic Places, folk life documentation, oral histories, previous studies, local informants, local historical/archaeological societies.

Field Survey

This section lists the types of surveys that may be utilized to obtain information about cultural resources that may be present

1. Reconnaissance Survey-This shall document the following:
 - a. Kinds of properties looked for
 - b. The boundary of area surveyed
 - c. The methods of survey (e.g. pedestrian walkover, subsurface testing)
 - d. The kinds of cultural resources identified, if any

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DELIVERABLES

Report

Identification survey reports shall contain enough information to permit NRCS to make an informed decision and/or finding and be presented in such a manner that an outside party can understand the basis for that decision or finding. This report shall contain at minimum the following information which should include any appropriate pictures, maps and drawings:

1. Historic context (e.g. types of sites likely to be found), includes information gathered from any archival and other background research conducted
2. Area researched or surveyed (i.e., project APE)
3. Research design (how and why the methods used were chosen)
4. Methods used (which methods were chosen and how were they carried out; e.g. reconnaissance survey)
5. Results
 - a. Outcome of survey (Cultural resources identified)
 - b. Analysis of any artifacts, features, structures
 - c. Recommendations

Backup Data

All field notes, pictures, drawings not contained in the above report are the property of NRCS and shall be returned to NRCS as soon as possible after appropriate analysis is completed and final report accepted.

Curation

All artifacts found during the identification survey 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.

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

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