



Cultural Resources

MoDOT must consider how transportation improvements might impact the surrounding environment. One of the environmental factors that must be considered is cultural resources, which are defined as:

Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

This includes artifacts, records, and material remains related to such property. Some examples include national and local historic landmarks, Native American and pioneer cemeteries, prehistoric settlements, and architecturally significant buildings or structures.

A systematic process is undertaken to identify cultural resources, analyze potential impacts on them, and determine what action will be taken to eliminate or mitigate those impacts. This is commonly referred to as the "Section 106 Process," named after the portion of the National Historic Preservation Act which requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties. The process is outlined below.

1



Establish Area of Potential Effects (APE)

This establishes the area in which the project might have an impact on the environment.

2



Identify Resources and their Significance

Archival research and field surveys are conducted to identify cultural resources within the APE. Their significance is documented and discussed with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

3



Determination of Project Effects

The study team determines how the project improvements might affect cultural resources within the APE. If a resource is adversely affected, options for eliminating or mitigating those effects are proposed. This could include changing the location of the highway improvement to avoid the resource or making adjustments in the design to lessen the impact.

4



Resolve Adverse Effects

The team works with the SHPO, other relevant state and federal agencies, and consults with the public to determine the best course of action. These decisions are formalized in a written agreement that becomes part of the study's official documentation.