

# Protection of Cultural Resources

## Section 106 Process

One of the key environmental factors that must be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is **cultural resources**.

The study team uses a systematic process to identify these resources, evaluate potential impacts to them, and determine what action will be taken to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.

For cultural resources, this is commonly referred to as the **Section 106 Process**. Section 106 is named after the portion of the National Historic Preservation Act that requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties.

Presently, one resource in the project area, the Fairfax Bridge, is known to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It was included in the statewide Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory in 1996. The study team will be conducting further investigations and consulting with groups interested in cultural resources throughout the study process to consider project effects on the bridge and any other historic properties, including historic buildings and historic/prehistoric archaeological sites.

Cultural resources are defined as:

*Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object included in or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).*

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

It is the specific policy of the United States Government that:

*Special efforts be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public parks and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of the United States.*

The U.S. 69 Bridges EIS will follow a four step process to determine and address any potential impacts to cultural resources.

### 1

#### Establish Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The study corridor for the U.S. 69 Bridges Over the Missouri River EIS extends from I-635 south to Kindleberger Road. The APE includes an additional 100 feet on both sides of the study corridor in order to examine the potential effects of the project on architectural resources due to the proximity of proposed improvements. This establishes the area on which the Reasonable Alternatives might have an impact on cultural resources.

### 2

#### Identify Resources and their Significance

Data and field research is conducted to identify cultural resources within the APE. Their significance or potential significance is documented and discussed with staff of the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and others interested in cultural resources, potentially including tribal governments.

### 3

#### Determination of Effect

The study team determines how the Reasonable Alternatives might affect cultural resources within the APE. If a resource is adversely affected, options for eliminating or mitigating those effects are proposed.

### 4

#### Resolve Adverse Effects

The study team works with the SHPO, other relevant state and federal agencies, and consults with the public to determine the best course of action for resolving adverse effects on historic properties.