

3.3 Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources

Historic resources include any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). These resources are protected by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470(f)).

How were cultural resources identified in the study area?

Historic and archaeological resources were identified and assessed by professional archaeologists with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS), and IDOT cultural resources staff, and then reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Resources were identified using field reviews and historical records searches to document new or previously-documented historical or archaeological sites. Historic resources were identified using a historic structures photo log compiled by the project team, where all structures older than fifty (50) years old were photographed and reviewed by IDOT's Cultural staff to determine if any structures could be considered eligible for the National Register.

Correspondence with nine known American Indian tribal organizations associated with the study area was initiated to inform them of the proposed project and to seek their input as a consulting party. The following tribal organizations were contacted:

- Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Osage Nation

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register coordinates the identification, evaluation, and protection of America's historic and archaeological resources. Properties eligible for the National Register must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Criterion A: Property is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Criterion C: Property embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D: Property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.¹

What is Section 106?

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of federally-funded projects on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the project.

¹ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. "National Register Evaluation Criteria." <http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html>. Accessed August 8, 2011.

What other laws protect cultural resources?

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (DOT Act) of 1966 states that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other DOT agencies cannot approve the use of land from public or private sites eligible for or on the National Register unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land, and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from use. Please see Chapter 7 for additional information on Section 4(f).

What is a mound?

Prehistoric earthworks typically associated with ritual activity and are likely to contain or be closely associated with human burials.

What is a habitation site?

A site that may produce intact subsurface features, such as house floors and cooking or storage pits, as a result of intensive occupation.



Vandalia home that may be eligible for the National Register

- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

The tribes did not identify any additional cultural resources in the study area.

Is the project near archaeological resources?

The study area was reviewed by state archeologists to determine locations of existing and potential archaeological sites. The archaeological review did not identify any mounds or cemeteries within the alternatives. Survey teams examined 765 acres of land, representing 19 percent of the overall study area, and nearly 70 percent of the areas with the highest probability of archaeological resources in the study area. The review identified habitation sites that will require further investigation after the Preferred Alternative is selected in order to determine their eligibility for the National Register.

Is the project near historic resources?

Photo logs of structures greater than 50 years old near the project alignments were compiled and sent to IDOT’s Cultural staff to determine if any structures may be considered eligible for the National Register. One home in northwest Vandalia, adjacent to V Alt 3, was identified as potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The V Alt 3 alignment was shifted to avoid physically impacting the property.

Additionally, IDOT cultural resources staff identified six National Register properties within or adjacent to the study area that should be avoided. Five of these National Register properties are not located adjacent to any of the alternatives. The remaining National Register property is the Hoffman Creek bridge, adjacent to the V Alt 2, V Alt 3, and V Alt 4 alignments as shown in Volume II Map Book sheets 101, 126, and 152. The Hoffman Creek bridge is located east of, but adjacent to, existing US 51. V Alts 2, 3, and 4 will be closer to the Hoffman Creek bridge than existing US 51. The Vandalia alternatives will avoid impacts to the bridge by building the alternatives on a retaining wall west of the bridge.

Will the alternatives impact archaeological or historic resources?

The alternatives avoid impacts to most of the National Register properties recommended for avoidance by IDOT cultural resources staff. However, other sites in the study area are recommended for additional testing if they will be impacted by the preferred alternative. Phase II archaeological testing is a field evaluation that documents site context, integrity, and significance to determine if a site is eligible for the National Register.

Further examinations of the Kaskaskia River, Bear Creek, and Crooked Creek floodplains within areas impacted by the preferred alignment are recommended by state archeologists to examine the potential for deeply buried sites within the floodplain. Habitation sites impacted by the alternatives are recommended for Phase II testing as well. Phase II testing will occur after the preferred alternative is identified. IDOT, in understanding with the SHPO, commits to avoid, mitigate, or minimize any impacts to National Register eligible sites identified during Phase II or later testing.

What measures are proposed to avoid or minimize effects to cultural resources?

Additional cultural resources testing will be completed once the Preferred Alternatives are identified. Habitation sites were specifically recommended for further testing by IDOT. If a habitation site is found to be eligible for the National Register, and impacts cannot be avoided, the impacted part of the site will be excavated to recover the significant data.

Would construction activities impact cultural resources?

There will be no construction impacts to cultural resources due to IDOT policy procedures mentioned previously in the DEIS.



Detail of Hoffman Creek bridge at US 51. The bridge is listed on the National Register

What is Phase II archaeological testing?

Phase II archaeological testing occurs for sites flagged in a Phase I analysis as needing more survey to determine site characteristics. These field surveys find cultural deposits by carefully hand-digging, auguring, trenching, or otherwise excavating.