Cultural Resources Guidance; Information Required for Cultural Resource Identification Activities for Section 106, Section 4(f), and 22 VSA 14 Review Requests

The Cultural Resources (CR) Team must determine if there are historic and/or archaeological resources within a project area and evaluate how they may be affected when reviewing projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 22 VSA 14 of the Vermont Historic Preservation Act. Some projects will also require evaluation by the CR Team under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

Following the definition established by the National Register of Historic Places, a historic or archaeological resource is one with architectural, engineering, or cultural remains (pre-contact or historic period) in districts, sites, buildings, or structures that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Each site should be associated with one or more of the following historical or cultural themes:

- Those that are associated with the events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history
- Those that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Those that embody the 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
- Those that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

Below is information Cultural Resources Team will need to determine if there are cultural resources in a project area, evaluate any potential effects the project may have on them, and, if required, complete a Section 4(f) evaluation.

Archaeology Requirements

Consultant* reports must include the following:

- 1. A project location map
- 2. A plan of the project area that illustrates the archaeological areas
- 3. An overview historic/pre-contact context of the town that includes specifics pertaining to the project area.
- 4. Overall context photographs of the project area
- 5. Historic maps as appropriate (Beers, Wallings, Sanborn)
- 6. Map that includes:
 - a. Previously identified archaeological sites within or in the vicinity of the project area.
 - b. Archaeologically sensitive areas within or directly adjacent to the project area

- 7. Narrative describing the known sites (if any; and noted if no known sites are present) including site type (pre-contact, historic mill site), and information regarding significance, etc. as well as a description of the archaeologically sensitive areas that includes location within the project area, soils, landform, etc.
- 8. Recommendations regarding the archaeological areas. This will generally consist of avoidance or further study. If the project area has multiple alternatives, this recommendation should include preferred alternatives for avoidance and minimization of resource impacts.
- 9. The archaeological field season (generally April 15 November 1) will need to be considered in project scheduling. Early coordination during scoping can help project sponsors determine potential level of archaeological fieldwork a project may need.

Historic/ Above-Ground Resources

Consultant* reports must include the following:

- 1. An overview history of the town that sets the context for the construction of the above-ground resources within the project area
- 2. Project location map
- 3. Overall context photographs of the project area
- 4. A brief description of each historic property in the project area that includes a description of mature trees and historic and/or designed landscapes
- 5. A proposed recommendation regarding eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) for each historic property in the project area that includes an explanation as to why a property is or is not considered eligible for listing
- 6. Sufficient number of photos per property to adequately illustrate it (one may be sufficient)
- 7. A plan of the project area that notes the locations of the historic properties
- 8. Historic photos and maps as appropriate
- 9. The 36-CFR qualifications of the consultant

These reports will be used for VTrans project review purposes and a digital copy will be submitted to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for their records as well.

Section 4(f)

If a proposed project will have an effect on any property considered to be a Section 4(f) property type then Section 4(f) may apply and the project would need to be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. Section 4(f) property types include historic properties, designated recreation areas, wildlife management areas, designed landscapes and mature trees, and publicly accessible playgrounds. There are different types of Section 4(f) evaluations but the two most common are Bridge Programmatic and De Minimis. For historic resources the Section 106 Determination of Effect and comments from Officials with Jurisdiction are part of the 4(f) evaluation process. For projects affecting other 4(f) resource types the comments from Officials with Jurisdiction and other consulting parties are considered during the 4(f) evaluation process.

If a project will require permanent easements to a Section 4(f) resource(s) then the following must be provided:

^{*}Reports on cultural resources (historic/above-ground and archaeological) must be completed by 36 CFR qualified consultants. For a definition of these qualifications, please visit the link below. https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/gis/html/quals.html

- A. Completed de minimis details template, which requires:
 - 1. Parcel number
 - 2. Property address
 - 3. Property owner
 - 4. Easement type/purpose
 - 5. Estimated sq. ft. of permanent easement
 - 6. Estimated total of all project easements
- B. Color-coded/shaded plans with a legend, showing:
 - 1. Section 4(f) resources identified by type (Historic, Park, Wildlife Refuge, etc.)
 - 2. Areas of permanent easements to Section 4(f) resources
 - 3. Section 4(f) resource property boundaries
 - 4. Existing right-of-way boundaries

Project-related temporary easements must also be delineated, including:

- A. Color-coded/shaded plans with a legend, showing;
 - 1. Areas of temporary easements to Section 4(f) resources
 - 2. Section 4(f) resource property boundaries
 - 3. Existing right of-way boundaries

Sample of 4(f) documentation

Draft Schedule of Permanent Easements for Section 4(f) Historic De Minimis Evaluation

Barre Town STP HES 0169(8)

March 14, 2016

PARCEL NO.	LOCATION	PROPERTY OWNER	TYPE/PURPOSE	APPROX. SIZE
1	TH 2 MILL STREET STA 1+70.5-2+02.3, LT	SHIRLOCK, GEORGE F. & MARION L.	SIDEWALK INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE	117 SF
2	TH 2 MILL STREET STA 2+01.2 – 2+80.7, LT	HOOD, BEVERLY (LE) & HOOD, GREGORY ET AL	SIDEWALK INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE	122 SF
			TOTAL	239 SF

