



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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Generalized Guidelines for Research and Reporting:

Scope of Work for Proposed Dam Removals Pertaining to Historical and Archaeological Resources

Historic preservation laws and objectives:

Historic preservation “Review & Compliance” is a consultation process to identify significant historic properties so that any harm to them from government-assisted actions can be avoided or minimized. It is intended to be a conflict-resolution and problem-solving system, which balances the public interest in historic preservation with the public benefit from a variety of governmental initiatives. With respect to the proposed removal of a number of dams along New Hampshire’s waterways, we must first assume that most if not all dams are historic (50 years-age criteria).

Historic properties that are significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture are recognized by both the state and the federal governments as resources to be preserved and interpreted for the benefit of **all** citizens. They are **non-renewable resources** important to our individual and collective identity, and they are worthy of protection, investigation, interpretation, and conservation.

This policy does not mean that all properties of sufficient age to be considered “historic” are significant resources, nor does it mean that all significant historic properties can or should be saved. Rather, it is a directive to prevent the needless destruction of our tangible cultural heritage, so that historical resources can exist in harmony with government-aided social and economic changes.

Purposes and Steps of Process:

The purpose of the historic preservation review process, as defined under state law RSA 227-C: 9 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470) and implemented by the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) procedures, is to balance the public interest in historic preservation with the public benefit from a variety of governmental initiatives. Steps in this process are:

- Define the area of impact through the project scope. Division of Historical Resources (DHR) should be involved in preliminary discussions.

- Identify consulting parties to the review process; these may include representatives of local governments, property owners, tribal organizations, and others with a demonstrated interest in the project.
- Locate and identify potential historical, architectural, and archaeological resources within the project impact area.
- Evaluate identified resources that might be impacted by the project using National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for eligibility.
- Assess the probable effects a project would have on historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register.
- Develop means to resolve adverse effects.

The services of both Architectural Historians and Archaeological Consultants (meeting the minimum federal standards 36CFR 61.5) are required to address preservation concerns and to proceed smoothly through the review process. A scope of work should be submitted to the DHR for review and would include:

Identification of Historical Resources

Archaeological Resources: Phase I (Reconnaissance-level)

A Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance-level survey is typically divided into two sub-phases (Phase IA and IB). Phase IA is defined in the following.

Minimally a Phase IA would need to be completed by a qualified archaeologist and submitted to the DHR for review and approval. Information includes:

- General location of project identified on USGS quadrangle map (provided by appropriate agency).
- Methodology statement including purpose of dam project (provided by appropriate agency).
 - Include possible impacts to areas upstream and downstream from dam removal (possible change in hydrology-information provided by appropriate agency).
 - Potential impacts to known sites would include:
 - Erosion to sites from changes in hydrology.
 - Exposure of sites due to lower pond and river levels.
 - Vandalism to exposed sites.
 - Construction impacts resulting from demolition activities.
- Detailed project map with area of impact defined including (provided by appropriate agency):
 - Areas proposed for access, staging, and fill removal/disposal.
- Background Research to include:
 - DHR site file search for known archaeological resources, both Native American and Historical sites.
 - NHDHR Project Area Form and related research as prepared by consulting Architectural Historian. The DHR suggests that consulting archeologists and architectural historians work together to gather and interpret research materials.
- Visual assessment of the proposed project area with regard to archaeological resources.
 - Site description that includes identification of existing archaeological resources.
 - Photo-documentation.

- Detailed map that defines study area including known historic and archaeological resources in close proximity.
 - Cellar holes, retaining walls, etc.
 - Previously identified Native American and Euro American archaeological resources within a 1-mile radius of existing dam.
- NHDHR Archaeological Inventory Forms completed or updated at the Minimum Documentation Level.
- Bibliography of all sources utilized, including informants, DHR's files and the Department of Environmental Services' dam files.

Historic/Architectural/Engineering Resources: Phase I

A Project Area Form must be completed by a qualified architectural historian and submitted to the DHR for review and approval. DHR's general guidance for completing project area forms is available from the office and online at <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/formsmanual.html>. In particular, dam project information should include:

- Background Research, including:
 - History and evolution of the dam and study area within the town it is located in, supplemented with historic maps.
 - Information describing comparable resources within the watershed.
- Visual assessment of the proposed project area.
 - Map dam related potential historic resources and sites, with photo key.
 - Photo-documentation.
- Description of the dam and other historical resources present within the study area.
 - Standing structures, sites, or foundations related to dam and/or abutting the impoundment.
 - Bridges, abutments, etc. (within hydrology area of impact-primarily downstream, although upstream should be considered)
 - Mill ponds.
 - Describe possible effects on historic view shed.

An Individual Inventory Form must be completed for the dam and its ancillary components. DHR's general guidance for completing individual inventory forms is available from the office and online at <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/formsmanual.html>.

- The date, construction and engineering behind the dam should be clearly described and evaluated.
- The narrative and property map should note and describe all extant and removed dam components – such as retaining walls, gates, sluices, canals and penstocks – with dates of construction (even if estimated).
- The comparable evaluation should examine other dams of the same type and period in New Hampshire and the types, dates and locations of other dams in the watershed or river.

Sanborn maps, corporate records, the industrial schedules from 19th century federal census and state-wide dam inventory and records at DES are important research tools for compiling inventory data. The DHR also suggests that consulting archeologists and architectural historians work together to gather and interpret research materials.

- Submit the area and inventory forms to the lead federal agency, the DHR and the Rivers Restoration Program at DES for review and approval. Copies with original, black and white, 35 mm photographs must be submitted to DHR.
- The area form should include recommendations for additional individual and district inventory, as needed.
- If any resources are part of a larger historic district, this evaluation should extend outside of the impact area to define that district.

Identification of Historic Resources: Phase IB or II

- Archaeological Resources (Phase IB Archaeological Reconnaissance-level survey):
 - Level of effort determined through consultation between the archaeological consultant and the DHR, generally includes subsurface testing.
- Historic/Architectural/Engineering Resources (Phase II):
 - Complete additional NHDHR Individual Inventory Forms or District Forms as required.
 - Apply the criteria for evaluation of significance of a resource for possible eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, if not already listed or nominated.

Continuing Consultation under Section 106:

Continued consultation with the DHR is needed in areas that are determined sensitive to archaeological resources and for historic properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- Determine effect of project on identified historical and archaeological resources.
- If the effects are adverse, the DHR, the lead federal agency, DES and any identified consulting parties consult to resolve these adverse effects.
- Alternatives or modifications to the project that avoid, minimize or mitigate the project's adverse effects are developed and evaluated.
- Conclude consultation with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), if needed.
- Include in MOA a clause for Post Dam Removal Monitoring.
 - If there have been archaeological sites identified within the area of impact, the DHR recommends that a qualified archaeologist visually assess the sensitive areas associated with the dam for a year following removal (twice a year), depending on the change in hydrology. This will include potential effects to associated bridges.
- Complete stipulations within time frames outlined in the agreement, mitigating the loss of any historic and archaeological resources.

This document serves as general guidance on the research and reporting required for proposed dam removal projects. Please contact the Rivers Restoration Coordinator at DES for more specific information as to how this guidance applies to specific projects and resources.