

Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation Tools

22

ple, many of these agencies jointly fund the development and maintenance of cultural resource inventory databases (including databases using GIS) housed within SHPOs.

HPST

URS recommends two options for implementing the HPST:

- **HPST Option 1: Voluntary Implementation.** This option involves (1) advertising the tool nationally and highlighting the utility of this tool, (2) sending HPST CDs to all DOTs and SHPOs and making the CD available to CRM consultants, and (3) making the HPST source code available on CD to anyone who wants to use all or part of the tool in his or her own system.

- **HPST Option 2: Pilot Program.** This program involves the participation of a small number of states (involving both the SHPO and DOT of each state) to fully implement the HPST. States would input existing historic contexts in the HPST and use the tool in actual project-related National Register evaluations. If possible, this option would also include the creation of a new historic context from scratch using the HPST. It is also recommended that ECREL be integrated into this pilot program, as the two tools can be used together (e.g., searching ECREL for appropriate historic contexts and then placing the contexts into the HPST program).

Funding is needed to pay for an organization to direct and implement the program and to fund SHPO and DOT staff participation in the pilot program. The latter task is important because SHPO and DOT staffs are having great difficulty meeting their current agency responsibilities. Adding another responsibility would only be possible through the funding of additional staff. States will also need programming support and training for the duration of the pilot program. The results of the pilot program would be shared and advertised nationwide to historic preservation and transportation professionals.

Funding approaches for this option would be similar to those discussed above for ECREL.

CONCLUSIONS

As noted in the previous chapter, the responses to ECREL were uniformly positive. Most reviewers felt that ECREL would benefit all historic preservation professionals. Though ECREL would not in itself result in an increase in the development of historic contexts, reviewers noted that the tool

would at least result in the production of more useful historic contexts when these documents were created.

The HPST is more problematic. It is clear that it will not be used without direction and approval from upper management within agencies. The HPST use will also require some changes in the existing evaluation processes used by most states. In addition, all reviewers made it clear that they did not want to do more work. Therefore, unless agencies were willing to replace one or more existing evaluation and reporting requirements with the HPST, historic preservation professionals are not likely to use this tool.

Most reviewers, nevertheless, felt that the HPST met the intended objectives, but that more work would be required to refine its features and integrate it into current SHPO and DOT processes. Unlike ECREL, which can and should be implemented centrally, the HPST would have to be implemented individually within each SHPO, DOT, and consultant offices, with specific requirements for each organization. For example, many reviewers wanted the HPST linked to their GIS; however, since each GIS may be organized differently, the HPST would have to be customized for each customer.

The HPST and ECREL were not created to increase the workload of state and federal agency staff. Rather, these tools should provide consistency—in terms of the format, presentation, and content of evaluation documents—that is sorely lacking in current documentation. These tools will also decrease development and review time for eligibility evaluations as the documentation levels needed for effective decision making are made explicit and readily accessible, eliminating extraneous materials often inserted into current documents. The HPST, in particular, would replace currently used evaluation report formats, forms, and correspondence, and the majority of decision-making efforts would be documented and captured in a single format. Also, historic contexts that are developed in the HPST will be no more time consuming (and may be less time consuming) to create than the current method of compiling information using word processing software. The use of the HPST for context development also increases the likelihood that the resulting historic context will actually contain the information and guidance needed to evaluate National Register eligibility.

If development and testing of these IT tools is to continue, state DOTs, SHPOs, organizations such as TRB's Historic and Archaeological Preservation in Transportation Committee (ADCSO), and AASHTO will hopefully provide leadership to secure funding to support additional prototype testing and refinement. As the February 2004 Santa Fe, New Mexico, "Working Conference on Historic Preservation and Transportation: Enhancing and Streamlining Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act" illustrated, federal and state agencies clearly want to move away from a project-by-project approach to embrace new processes that emphasize examination of issues at a preplanning phase of project development. Tools such as ECREL and the HPST would greatly assist in supporting preproject planning efforts.

Download a PDF of "Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation Tools" by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for. Read chapter Front Matter: TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance. TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation. Under NCHRP Project , Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance Using Infor- tural Resource Significance Implementation Tools, developed two. EVALUATING CULTURAL RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE: IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS. This report presents the findings of a research project to develop. TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation Tools examines. Title, Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation Tools. Report No. NCHRP Report Publisher, Transportation Research. the evaluation process. A list of related resources and tools and an abbreviated The Importance of Cultural Competence in Evaluation Evaluation,⁸ require the evaluator to implement the framework's steps through a cultural competence .research and field investigations for the explicit purpose of evaluating the integrity, significance of cultural resources in terms of their eligibility for inclusion in the . professional equipment. .. Implementing Subsurface Testing Programs. Evaluate cultural resources for eligibility to the National Register in accordance or culturally significant and that maximize their agency and public benefit. Recognize that the tools and methodology used may change depending on the location of . and analyses, and are useful in planning and implementing field surveys. Stage 5: Evaluate Residual Effects and Their Significance However, tools and variety of criteria for evaluating cultural resources exist in most municipal, . The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention .(and losses to the significance of cultural resources) from climate that vulnerability and significance must be evaluated so that tools to support adaptation [12,25]. planning and implementation for heritage preservation. protection of the natural, historic and cultural resources of each municipality and .. When assessing the threats that the community's significant historic and . What tools and techniques for preserving our community's cultural heritage arts organizations with whom the municipality can partner to implement the goals and . Managing Archaeological Investigations (NCHRP Synthesis) Evaluating Cultural Resource Significance: Implementation Tools (NCRHP Report). This section evaluates the potential impacts to cultural resources (historical, archaeological, and paleontological) from the implementation of the proposed Davidson/Scott Ranch project. The addition of milling tools and obsidian and chert . these documents present an evaluation of a substantial prehistoric habitation site.

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