

## **Double the Benefits of Your Survey: Historic Preservation Surveys as a Model for Inventorying and Assessing Byway Intrinsic Qualities**

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Printable Summary

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### **SHPO Background**

- Each state has a SHPO
- Established with 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Administer NHPA programs

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SHPOs function differently therefore you should **contact your SHPO** if considering conducting a historic resources survey for guidance and to inquire about survey requirements, standards, possible funding sources, source list for historic preservation consultants, etc.

### **What is survey?**

*Process of identifying and gathering data on a community's historic resources (NPS definition)*

In other words, documenting historic resources. Historic resources = buildings, sites, structures, objects, landscapes.

A survey includes

- Basic physical and architectural information
- Basic property/location information (address, legal description, GPS coordinates)
- Images
- Site Plan

Surveys can also include detailed descriptions of each resource, detailed histories, archival research, and historic photos.

Kansas Survey: <http://www.kshs.org/resource/survey.htm>

### **Why survey?**

- Documentation
- Tourism/Marketing – basis for walking/driving tour, signage, brochures, etc.

- Disaster Preparedness – see National Trust website for more information, <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/technical-assistance/disaster-recovery/preparing-a-local-plan.html>
- Survey is the basis for any preservation activities and preservation planning
  - For example, SHPOs often use survey data to evaluate eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>)
  - Properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for financial incentives such as tax credits and/or grants
- Survey data can be incorporated into local planning and local databases
- Develop a better understanding of your community's history

### **Why should byways utilize historic resource surveys?**

- All of the above reasons
- Means of identifying and assessing byway's intrinsic qualities
  - What resources are important to byway
  - What resources are at risk, merit protection

### **What products result from a survey?**

If carried out by a professional preservation consultant:

- Survey report
  - Historic context
  - Data Analysis
  - Historic preservation recommendations
- Records for each surveyed resource
- Map/Site Plans
- Images
- Possibly public meetings

### **Who carries out survey?**

- Depends on your SHPO's survey standards/requirements
- Preservation consultants
- SHPO staff
- Volunteers
- In Kansas, anyone can survey

### **Access to Survey Data**

- New and existing survey data should be accessible to the general public at your SHPO
- Many SHPOs have developed online survey databases (see Kansas example, [kshs.org/khri](http://kshs.org/khri))
- As a byway organization, you may want to consider making your survey data readily accessible to the public yourself—publicize survey results; if your SHPO doesn't have an online database, add one to your website

## Resources

- National Register Bulletin 24 – *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb24/>
- National Register Bulletin 30 – *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb30/>
- Other bulletins (including ones on traditional cultural properties and archaeological resources) available online at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins.htm>