

Terms are derived from the glossary in the National Park Service, Cultural Resources Management, NPS-28.

Acquisition: the act or process of acquiring fee title or interest other than fee title to real property (including acquisition of development rights or remainder interest). Also applies to the acquisition of museum property (see Accession).

Anthropology: the scientific study of the human condition, including cultural, biological and physical adaptations over time and under various natural and social environmental conditions. It is broad in scope in that it describes and interprets the human situation in terms of the interrelationships of culture, natural environments, and biological realities. It is a diachronic discipline because it describes and interprets human existence over time. Anthropology includes the specializations of archaeology, cultural anthropology (including ethnography, ethnology, and applied anthropology), linguistics, and physical anthropology.

Archaeology: the scientific study, interpretation, and reconstruction of past human cultures from an anthropological perspective based on the investigation of the surviving physical evidence of human activity and the reconstruction of related past environments. Historic archaeology proceeds upon the same basis, but uses historical documentation as additional sources of information. An archaeologist is a scientist professionally trained to conduct such studies.

Cultural anthropology: the scientific description (ethnography) and analysis (ethnology) of cultural systems, i.e., systems of behaviors (including economic, religious, and social), values, ideologies, and social arrangements. It focuses on the lifeways of contemporary peoples, but also deals with the past (ethnohistory), it is concerned with broad questions of cultural

change and stability, but also considers narrower, applied studies such as social impact assessments and feasibility studies. An anthropologist is a scientist with advanced training in any of the above subdisciplines.

Archaeological clearance: a memorandum that documents an undertaking has met the environmental and historic preservation guideline requirements with respect to archaeological values of cultural resources. A clearance may be issued when (1) the project area of effect has no significant archaeological resources; (2) significant archaeological values within the project's area of effect will not be adversely impacted; (3) significant archaeological values within a project's area of effect that will be adversely affected have been salvaged in accordance with New Mexico State Monuments standards; and (4) required for a determination of no effect.

Architectural conservation: the science of preserving architecture and its historic fabric by observing and analyzing the evolution, deterioration, and care of structures; the conducting of investigations to determine the remedial intervention focused on maintaining the integrity and quality of historic fabric.

Architectural conservator: a specialist in the scientific analysis of structure materials and systems. An architectural conservator has knowledge of the causes of deterioration and treatment of historic structure materials.

Architectural historian: an historian concentrating on the study of architecture through written records and the examination of structures, sites, and objects to determine their relationship to preceding, contemporary, and subsequent architecture and events.

Archives: the non-current records of an organization or institution preserved for their historic value. The term “archives” often is used to refer to the repository where archives and other historical documents are maintained.

Artifact: a portable object resulting from human activity, usually applied to objects found in or removed from archeological sites, whether historic or prehistoric.

Cataloging: the process of assigning a unique identifying number to a museum object and recording descriptive and documentary data on a museum catalog record form.

Conservator (museum object): a person who is specially trained and skilled in the theoretical and practical aspects of preventive conservation and of performing treatments necessary to prolong the physical and aesthetic life of museum objects. Most conservators specialize in the treatment of a specific class of objects (e.g., paintings, furniture, books, paper, textiles, metals, ceramics and glass, architecture, ethnographic and archaeological objects, photographs).

Cultural landscape: a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources, including the wildlife or domestic animals therein, that has been influenced by or reflects human activity or was the background for an event or person significant in human history. Cultural landscapes are of five general kinds, not mutually exclusive, and include:

historic scene: a micro-environment where a significant historic event occurred, frequently with associated structures or other tangible remains. In historic areas, such remains often are the most significant physical resource of the monument. The cultural scene provides the context for understanding and interpreting the events, ideas, or persons associated with the monument. The historic scene always is present in historic monuments, although its integrity may be severely diminished because of intrusions such as nearby

developments, inappropriate plantings, or lack of maintenance;

historic site: a site where an event or activity has imbued a particular piece of ground with significance warranting preservation of the historic appearance of the landscape (i.e., battlefields, landing sites, and historic routes).

Cultural resources: those tangible and intangible aspects of cultural systems, both past and present, that are valued by or representative of a given culture, or that contain information about a culture. Tangible cultural resources include, but are not limited to sites, structures, districts, objects, and historic documents associated with or representative of peoples, cultures, and human activities and events, either in the present or in the past. Tangibles also include plants, animals, and other natural resources culturally defined as food, manufacturing, and ceremonial items; naturally occurring or designated physical features (caves, mountain peaks, forest clearings, dance grounds, village sites, trails) regarded as the sacred homes of deities, spirits, ancestors, and/or places of worship and ceremony. Intangible cultural resources also include the primary written and verbal data for interpretation and understanding those tangible resources. Intangible cultural features including family life, myth, folklore, ideology, folk song and folk dance are renewable, and transmitted from generation to generation. Although material evidence of past cultures is finite, cultural resources in general are not, but are produced by each successive generation.

Cultural resources management: an umbrella term for activities affecting cultural resources; includes the preservation, use, protection, selective investigation of, or decision not to preserve prehistoric and historic remains; specifically includes the development of ways and means, including legislation and actions, to safeguard extant evidences or to preserve records of the past.

Cultural resource specialist: a person trained in any one of the cultural resources fields, including anthropologists (cultural anthropologists, archeologists, and ethnohistorians), architectural historians, architectural conservators, archivists, curators, historians, historical architects, historical landscape architects, and object conservators.

Culture: a system of behaviors (including economic, religious, and social), values, ideologies, and social arrangements. For example, the culture of some people includes periodically moving in pursuit of subsistence or wages and placing value on nuclear families (parents and children), wide-ranging social networks of friends, colleagues in various geographic areas, and temporary housing. These features, in addition to tools and expressive elements such as graphic arts, help humans interpret their universe as well as deal with features of their environments, natural and social. Culture is learned, transmitted in a social context, and modifiable. Synonyms for culture include “life-ways,” “customs,” “traditions,” “social practices,” and “folkways.” The terms “folk culture” and “folklife” might be used to describe aspects of the system that are unwritten, learned without formal instruction, and deal with expressive elements such as dance, song, music, and graphic arts as well as storytelling.

Curator: person in charge of a collection of objects in a museum or other repository of collections. The curator is a specialist in a field related to the collection and is responsible for the management of that collection, including acquisition and disposal, documentation and cataloging, preventive conservation, storage, access, interpretation and exhibition, and research and publication.

Documentation: measured drawings, photographs, histories, or other media that depict historic sites, structures, or objects.

Ethnic: culture or lifeways believed to characterize some peoples or regions in

complex societies and nations. For example, ranchers, Native Americans, Hispanics, Irish-Americans, and most other American people all can be analyzed as ethnic groups.

Excavation: the scientific examination of an archaeological site through layer-by-layer removal and study of the contents within prescribed surface units (i.e., 1 x 1 m). Excavation is done according to professional standards of archaeological methodology.

Feature: nonportable object, not recoverable from its matrix (usually in an archaeological site) without destroying its integrity. Examples of features include rock paintings, hearths, postholes, floors, and walls.

Historical archaeologist: a scientist with advanced training in historical archaeology and in the use of historical documents in the reconstruction of the past.

Historic document: any recorded information or any medium—paper, magnetic tape, film, and so forth—that has a direct, physical association with past human events, activities, observations, experiences, or ideas.

Historic fabric: material remains of a historic structure or object; whether original materials or materials incorporated in a subsequent historically significant period as opposed to materials utilized to maintain or restore the structure or object during a nonhistoric period.

Historic structure: a constructed work, either historic or prehistoric, consciously created to serve some human activity. It usually is immovable by nature or design. Examples are buildings of various kinds, monuments, dams, roads, railroad tracks, canals, millraces, bridges, tunnels, locomotives, stockades, forts and associated earthworks, Indian mounds, cemeteries, ruins, fences, gardens, and monumental statuary.

History: study of the past through written records, oral history, and material culture.

The evidence from these are compared, judged for veracity, placed in chronological or topical sequence, and interpreted in light of preceding, contemporary, and subsequent events.

Integrity: the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

Museum collection: an assemblage of objects, works of art, historic documents, and/or natural history specimens collected according to a rational scheme and maintained so they can be preserved, studied, or interpreted for public benefit. Museum collections normally are kept in the monument museums, although they also may be maintained in archeological and historic preservation centers. To be a museum collection, the assembled objects and specimens must be related to each other and to one or more monument themes.

Museum object: material thing possessing functional, aesthetic, cultural, symbolic, and/or scientific value. An object usually is movable by nature or design, such as a coin, a gun, a ceramic pot, or a chair. Museum objects include prehistoric and historic objects, artifacts, works of art, archival materials, and natural history specimens that are part of a museum collection. Elements, fragments, and components of structures may be designated museum objects if they are no longer part of the original structure. Large or immovable properties, such as monumental statuary, cairns, and rock paintings, are considered to be either structures or features of sites.

National Register of Historic Places: a record of sites, structures, or objects of local, state, or national significance. To be eligible for inclusion on the National Register, properties can be publicly or privately owned. The National Park Service administers the program.

Prehistory: the course of events in the period prior to recorded history.

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a structure, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site. It may include initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing maintenance.

Preservation maintenance: the act or process of applying preservation treatment to a cultural resource. It includes housekeeping and routine and cyclic work scheduled to mitigate wear and deterioration without altering the appearance of the resource; repair or replacement-in-kind of broken or worn-out elements, parts, or surfaces so as to keep the existing appearance and function of a structure; work to moderate, prevent, or arrest erosion of archeological sites; emergency stabilization work necessary to protect damaged historic fabric from additional damage; and actions taken to prevent damage and to minimize deterioration of a museum object by practicing preventive conservation or by performing a suitable treatment on an object itself.

housekeeping: that portion of maintenance that removes undesirable or harmful deposits of soil in a manner that does the least amount of harm to surface treated [?]. Housekeeping is repeated at short time intervals so that soil removal can be done with the gentlest and least radical methods.

routine maintenance: that portion of maintenance that usually consists of service activities such as tightening, adjusting, oiling, and so forth.

cyclic maintenance: that portion of maintenance that is performed less frequently than annually and usually involves replacement, or at least mending of the fabric of a structure or object.

stabilization: the act or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and the

structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated structure while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

Preventive conservation (maintenance): that part of the preservation function of object conservation that attempts to prevent harm to an object before it occurs. This function includes actions that monitor and control the museum environment, improve storage and exhibit methods, ensure periodic inspections of objects, ensure proper housekeeping procedures, maintain appropriate security measures, prevent damage from improper handling and transporting of objects, and so forth.

Protection: the act or process of applying measures designed to affect the physical condition of a property by defending or guarding it from deterioration, loss, or attack, or to cover or shield the property from danger or injury. In the case of structures, such treatment generally is of a temporary nature and anticipates future historic preservation treatment; in the case of archeological sites, the protective measure may be temporary or permanent. Protection in its broadest sense also includes long-term efforts to deter or prevent vandalism, theft, arson, and other criminal acts against cultural resources.

Reconstruction: the act or process of reproducing by new construction the exact form and detail of a vanished structure, or any part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period of time.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of returning a structure to a state of utility through repair or alteration that makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the structure that are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a structure and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work.

Section 106: refers to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, which requires the responsible Federal agency official to take into account the effect of any proposed undertaking upon cultural resources included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. It also requires the agency official to permit the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (established by the Act) a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to the undertaking. Compliance with Section 106 is required for any Federal or federally controlled or licensed undertaking.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): an official within each state appointed by the governor to administer the State Historic Preservation Program. In addition, the SHPOs have specific responsibilities relating to Federal undertakings that affect cultural resources within the state.