



ACHP CULTURAL RESOURCES DATA PLATFORM

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is building an AI driven platform that will accelerate and improve the consideration of historic properties in infrastructure project planning. By integrating information about historic properties with other geographical information, the system will help planners reduce and avoid impacts to historic properties by factoring this knowledge into early decisions about project siting. The platform is designed to save time and result in cost efficiencies for those carrying out reviews required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

PROBLEM

Currently planners developing infrastructure projects must gather cultural resource data from a variety of separate federal agencies, states, and Indian Tribes without the benefit of a central system that provides access to the data or the consulting parties involved. Project proponents unfamiliar with the Section 106 process may miss or face challenges in collecting data that could guide project siting decisions toward locations with less potential to conflict with non-renewable cultural resources. Even experienced project planners can find the initial stages of research time consuming given the distributed nature of today's data.

SOLUTION

The ACHP is using the latest research to develop an advanced AI-driven data collection and planning tool, which will:

- ▶ Retrieve relevant data remotely from disparate systems housing geographical and cultural resources data, including available information on whether areas have been surveyed before
- ▶ Generate a project research report on historic properties and potential impacts to them that will inform additional early project planning, consultation, and research needs
- ▶ Incorporate geospatial data sources (e.g map layers, satellite data) to provide useful information on underlying landscape characteristics
- ▶ Offer visual simulation tools to help predict potential resource impacts based on exact geography
- ▶ Make it easier to assess project adjustments that might optimize location or route planning

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MISSION STATEMENT: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation promotes the preservation of America's historic places and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



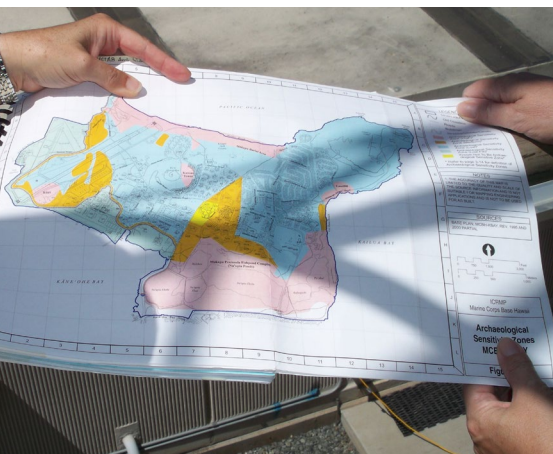


While initial development of the platform will capitalize on publicly available datasets and non-sensitive historic properties data, the ACHP is committed to developing security protocols to protect or restrict access to sensitive data such as archaeological site information or places of significance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations. With the security layers for restricted access, the system can grow to include additional data sources with appropriate access limitations.

APPROACH

The ACHP's work on the platform is supported by funding from the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. The proposal leverages the latest advancements in AI to make historic property data more accessible to the Section 106 process without the ACHP assembling or holding state or Tribal datasets itself. This approach will create a system linked initially to available GIS cultural resources databases at the state and federal level, and eventually to other sources beyond that.

The cultural resources data platform will integrate the latest Google AI solutions, including agentic deep research, geographic reasoning, and generative AI models, to yield information to help agencies and project proponents target new research or field study to identify historic properties in areas where it is most needed. A unique security architecture will provide for operational security meeting high federal standards. The project began in March 2026 with a data landscape survey, followed by prototype development, testing with pilot data partners, and refinement of the system design before a launch anticipated by the end of FY 2027.



BENEFITS

The cultural resources data platform aims to significantly expedite and improve Section 106 reviews within federal permitting processes while ensuring robust protection of historic properties through access to data and analysis that can improve the likelihood of avoiding or minimizing adverse effects. This system offers immediate efficiencies for the project planning and permitting process and could also be expanded in the future to further assist with assessing visual and auditory effects, federal land use planning, and national-scale research about historic properties.

The ACHP's website includes a wide range of information about Section 106 and federal agency preservation programs:
www.achp.gov



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