GUIDELINES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN IOWA

Jointly Sponsored by
the Association of Iowa Archaeologists (AIA),
the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA),
and the State Historical Society of Iowa,
in its role as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Compiled and Edited by Kira E. Kaufmann (SHPO Office)

Final: December 1999
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1975, the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) distributed the first draft of Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa. Over the past 24 years, several versions of this document have been conveyed. The intent of this document focused on documentation issues for reports resulting from archaeological investigations. Over the years, the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), and the Association of Iowa Archaeologists (AIA) have recognized the need for guidelines defining the different types of archaeological investigations and appropriate field methods for conducting field investigations. The Iowa SHPO has held federal agency training sessions, public comment periods, a public seminar, and committee meetings to receive input, discuss, and update progress with the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa.

Since 1998, there has been a concerted effort on the part of the Iowa SHPO to distribute the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa in a more global and comprehensive format. The following is a summary of public and agency participation within the last year and a half. In April 1998, the 1998 Draft of the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa was sent for comment to 312 individuals, agencies, and organizations. Nineteen people responded with comments for this draft. There were two round table meetings of the previous authors (May 28 & July 7, 1998) held to review, discuss, and incorporate comments from the first 1998 Draft of the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations. Two representatives from the Iowa SHPO, one representative from AIA, and one representative from OSA attended these meetings.

In August 1998, the second 1998 Draft of the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa was sent for comment. Fifty-two copies were sent to 21 different federal agencies, 16 sent to 8 different state agencies, 64 sent to AIA members, 38 sent to non AIA consultants, 99 sent to county engineers, 41 sent to environmental firms, 13 sent to Council of Government offices, 13 sent to 12 different Native American Tribal contacts, 5 sent to professional geomorphologists, 2 sent to 2 different State Historic Preservation Offices, 1 sent to other interested parties. A total of 344 copies were sent with 14 people having responded with comments.
On September 17, 1998, the Iowa SHPO hosted a Section 106 Partnering Seminar held at The State Historical Building, Des Moines, IA. The Iowa SHPO presented an overview of the Section 106 process, the Archaeological Guidelines, and Historical and architectural issues relating to Section 106. One hundred sixteen individuals representing at least 11 different federal agencies, 6 different state agencies, 13 different archaeological consulting firms, 2 different Native American Interests, and 33 other different interested parties attended the seminar. This seminar encouraged any interested person, or agency to participate in the formation of a committee to review the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa and the comments generated from the second 1998 draft.

The committee formed to review further comments from the second 1998 Draft of Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa met two times (November 19 & December 1, 1998). The committee consisted of 15 individuals representing 4 federal agencies, 3 state agencies, 1 professional archaeologist organization, 0 archaeological consulting firms, 2 Native American Interests, and 1 other interested party.

The results of all the public and agency input are the “Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa (1999).” This document details recommendations for archaeological research for various agencies, interest groups, and private landowners. The “Guidelines” explain the differences between regulatory and non-regulatory archaeology and how this document may be used pertaining to the needs of the project. This document also presents a brief overview of culture history in Iowa and examples of different archaeological sites. This document is a “living” document and will be reviewed annually to accommodate changes in federal laws, state laws, archaeological technology, and other factors that may affect the constructive use of this document. The Iowa SHPO will use this document to assist in review of archaeological projects undertaken in the state. This document is not regulatory in nature and implies no regulatory authority written or otherwise.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The State Historical Society wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation for the assistance received from the interested public, federal and state agencies, and colleagues in the preparation of these guidelines. The State Historical Society would also like to thank the many individuals, organizations, and agencies who over the years have provided constructive comments and valuable insights to the formation of these guidelines.

The State Historical Society would like to specifically note the contributions of the initial 1998 guidelines author group consisting of William Green (State Archaeologist), Douglas Jones (SHPO), Kira Kaufmann (SHPO), and Leah Rogers (president of the Association of Iowa Archaeologists) as well as contributors to previous versions of the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa such as Art Bettis (IDNR), Kathy Gourley (SHPO), Shirley Schermer, (OSA), Kay Simpson (SHPO), and Tim Weitzel (OSA).

The State Historical Society would also like to specifically note the contributions of the most recent following committee members and their sponsoring agency or affiliation: Harold Budd (Iowa Department of Transportation), Jonathan Buffalo (Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa), James Carroll (Rural Development), Ron Deiss (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Jeff Joens (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Martin Konrad (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Randall Faber (Iowa Department of Transportation), Scott Hemingway (Iowa Rural Water Association), Gerry Kennedy (Federal Highway Administration), Judy McDonald (Iowa Department of Transportation), Kerry McGrath (Iowa State Historic Preservation Office), Patricia Ohlerking (Iowa Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer), Richard Rogers (National Resource Conservation Service), and Dawn Wanatee (Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa).

The State Historical Society would also like to specifically note the contributions of Jane Kaufmann, Lynda Wessel, and Mitch Overton for their efforts in proofreading, formatting, and editing this document.

The State Historic Preservation Office will continue to review and revise this document when necessary to enhance the quality and usefulness of this document. In accordance with this philosophy, any additional comments on this document should be directed to the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0290.
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL GUIDELINES COMMENT SHEET

This form is intended for the users of these guidelines to submit comments and suggestions to the State Historical Society concerning the enclosed Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Iowa. Please return constructive comments to the State Historical Society Community Programs Bureau at 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0290.

Name: ____________________________________________
Organization (if any): _________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________

City: _________________________ State: _______ Zip:__________
Phone: _________________________ e-mail: ________________

General Evaluation:

1. Were these guidelines informative? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Are the objectives and goals for the guidelines clear? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Do the goals and objectives appear to be met? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Are these guidelines worthwhile to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Were these guidelines helpful to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

In what way: _______________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

6. What do you like most about these guidelines? ________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

What do you like least about these guidelines? ________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Any additional comments or suggestions to improve these guidelines (please use additional sheets as necessary):

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________
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