

3.16 Archeology and Historic Preservation

Existing Conditions

As a federally funded project, the Proposed Action is subject to the review process of Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800) and the Alaska Historic Preservation Act. **Section 106 requires federal agencies to define and document the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for proposed projects in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. The APE for the West Dowling Road Connection Project is largely defined by the project slope limits and the anticipated right-of-way limit. The APE is depicted in Figure 1 attached to the August 3, 2006 letter from FHWA to SHPO (located in Appendix I). The consulting parties were the SHPO and Anchorage Historical Properties.**

Cultural Resource Consultants LLC conducted a review of land records and other historical documents, including the files of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS). The goal of this review was to determine whether any historic properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are in the project area.

The review found that the only known historic site in the general study area listed in the AHRS is Campbell Station (ANC-011). This former wood-frame Alaska Railroad flag stop station, built in the late 1930s, was located west of Tina Lake, at the intersection of Arctic Boulevard and the Alaska Railroad. The station was demolished in 1976.

Not recorded in the AHRS, but illustrated on a 1917 rectangular USGS survey incorporating the proposed project area are the Alaska Railroad, a government pack trail/wagon road, a telephone line parallel to the railroad tracks, a “trail to Anchorage,” and an abandoned U.S. railroad ROW. None of these features appear to exist today. Thus, no eligible historic properties are located within the proposed project area.

For more information, see the Cultural Resource Consultants report in Appendix I.

What is Section 106?

Section 106 of the National Historic Properties Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on sites that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on those effects.

A review of building records indicated that there are four ranch-style houses along the existing Dowling Road that are at least 45 years old, two of which are over 50 years of age (CRC 2006). Subsequently, research and documentation was prepared by Cultural Resource Consultants on these four houses to determine potential eligibility for listing in the National Register. The results of this research recommended that these four properties are not eligible, either individually or as part of a larger district (CRC 2006).

Environmental Consequences

Based on the cultural resource survey, FHWA determined that no ~~No~~ archaeological or historic properties would be affected by the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action. **SHPO concurred with that determination on April 12, 2007.**

Letters of concurrence about the area of potential effect and on the finding of No Historic Properties Affected from the SHPO are included in Appendix I F.

Construction

No construction impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation and Authorizations

If construction activities unearth any archaeological or historic resources, construction would be stopped in the immediate vicinity and the SHPO would be consulted. **Work would not resume in the area until the non-objection of the SHPO was received or the expedited Section 106 consultations process for discoveries during construction is completed.** No other mitigation is proposed.