

STATE OF VERMONT
VT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

STEWARDSHIP GUIDE
for
HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL
RESOURCES
ON
FOREST LANDS

Recommended Best Practices
For Protecting Vermont's
Historic and Archeological Resources on Forest Land

Includes list of HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES YOU
MAY FIND IN VERMONT'S FORESTS



Prepared by
Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
VT Division for Historic Preservation
National Life, 2nd Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-1201
giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us

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Why is Vermont's historic heritage important and worth preserving?

Spanning 12,000 years, Vermont's historic and pre-contact resources are critical links to our recent and distant past. Historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and archeological sites are a tangible, visual link to the rich social, economic and technological traditions and patterns of past generations of Vermonters. In many cases, these resources can help us understand little known chapters of Vermont history. Historic and archeological resources are educational and recreational assets to communities and to visitors. Archeological sites, in particular, are the only source of information for the longest part of human history in Vermont. Pre-contact sites in forested lands can be especially important since they are often undisturbed by historic or modern agricultural practices and other land disturbing activities. Because evaluating the significance of historic and archeological resources requires professional assessment and is frequently time-consuming, treating these resources as important can prove to be an effective management strategy.

What kinds of historic and archeological resources exist in Vermont's woodlands?

5 categories of historic and archeological resources merit consideration and protection when planning and carrying out logging operations (see the attached Table of detailed HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES)

- **HISTORIC STANDING STRUCTURES**
(Must be more than 50 years old. Easy to identify)
- **HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES**
(The more recent ones: reasonably easy to identify; early settlement sites, military sites, & Native American historic period sites hard to identify)
- **HISTORIC LANDSCAPES**
(Reasonably easy to identify)
- **PRE-CONTACT NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES**
(Hard to identify)
- **NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED AND TRADITIONAL SITES**
(Hard to identify)

If pre-contact Native American sites are hard to identify, how can we protect them?

Some lands have a higher potential for containing pre-contact (or pre-contact) settlement sites than other places; these are called archeologically sensitive lands. Archeologically sensitive lands exhibit a combination of environmental characteristics that would have clustered important resources--such as water and food --that attracted pre-contact people. Archeologically sensitive lands likely to contain pre-contact archeological sites will generally have less than 8 % - 15% slope and are often found in the following landforms or environmental settings:

- 200' from a river, stream, lake or pond, wetland, spring, or relict (i.e.now dry) drainage
- adjacent to a confluence
- adjacent to falls or rapids
- on a flood plain or river terrace
- on an elevated knoll in a flood plain
- on the flat at the head of a drainage
- at a natural portage between two watersheds/through mountains
- at chert, quartz or quartzite outcrops
- on post-glacial (or "paleo") land forms (some examples: sandy beach lines from the Champlain Sea, edges of former post-glacial lakes and ponds or bays, edges of former post glacial swamps or wetlands)

Of course these are generalizations. Soil characteristics such as good drainage, exposure to sunlight, and protection from wind are also key factors in pre-contact site location but their importance probably varied during different seasons of the year. Winter habitation sites might be located on south facing, sheltered, terraces along the valley edge; summer planting fields may be located in a sunny floodplain. One easy way to think about pre-contact archeological sensitivity is to **LOOK FOR PLACES WHICH LOOK LIKE GREAT PLACES TO CAMP (remember that winter camping has different requirements than warm weather camping or wet season camping)!**

Beginning in early 2009, the VT Division for Historic Preservation will offer a free, interactive, Internet-based mapping tool - - **VTMapTool** - - to help you better understand how Native Americans used Vermont's landscape for 12,000 years. **VTMapTool** allows you to overlay your property boundaries with a number of key environmental layers that coincide with Native American habitation and land use. Important pre-contact archeological sites may exist *within, in between, or near* these highlighted areas. **VTMapTool** is not a "predictive model" but rather a "habitability

map” to help visualize areas within a property that may contain Native American archeological resources. **VTMapTool** will be available at <http://www.historicvermont.org/> - - keep an eye out on this web site for our upcoming 2009 launch of **VTMapTool!**

Are there basic standards for protecting historic and archeological resources?

Yes, logging activities can be structured to protect these resources and avoid damaging them. One strategy is to **IDENTIFY** the resource or sensitive area, **DESIGNATE AND MARK A NOT-TO-BE-DISTURBED BUFFER ZONE** around the resource, and **AVOID IT**. Another strategy is to **CREATE A SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA** in which harvesting can be conducted but designed in a manner to maximize protection of a site or area. For example, cutting within the special management area can be done in winter, by hand, with the goal of not felling trees on top of an archeological site and not using the site area for tops or brush storage.

What size “Not-to-Be-Disturbed Buffer Zone” or “Special Management Area” is recommended?

The bigger, the better, to ensure that all parts of the historic resource are being managed to maximize protection.

A two hundred foot (200') area around any of the historic resources mentioned in these guidelines can provide reasonable protection, but sometimes 200' is not enough. To understand why such a wide management zone (or protection zone) is recommended, it helps to visualize an average 19th or early 20th century farm.” A typical farm would have had a farm house, well and water system, dumps or refuse pits, outbuildings (such as one or more barns), roads, drives, a vegetable garden, and landscape plantings such as trees, shrubs (such as lilacs), cedar hedges, and day lilies. Other farm features may have included stone walls, animal pounds, and grave sites for family members. What remains on the surface of today’s forest are only the *visible* remains of that farm. The house or barn cellar hole is often the most, or only, noticeable part of that original farmstead. Most of the farm site’s important archeological deposits are found outside the cellar hole. Searching for these features during an initial visit to the site can help create an adequately sized “buffer zone” or special management area early in the project.

Recommended logging “Best Practices” to Protect Historic and Archeological Resources:

- Know what’s there: conduct reconnaissance of area to locate and document standing historic resources, archeological sites, or archeologically sensitive lands.
- Create a “not-to-be-disturbed buffer zone” or “special management area” around the resource. Flag the area to ensure awareness for how the area should be treated during harvesting.
- Flag historic trees or landscapes and avoid or manage appropriately.
- Create a “not-to-be-disturbed buffer zone” or “special management area” around streams, wetlands, springs, lakes and ponds, caves and rockshelters, “WOW!” areas, other archeologically sensitive areas, and special landforms or natural areas.
- Show contractor locations of historic and archeological resources within cutting area, flagged special management areas (or not-to-be-disturbed buffer zone) around the site, and review protection procedures.
- Place landings/yards, skid trails, and access roads outside of buffer zones or special management areas.
- Use pre-existing skid trails.
- If stone walls must be crossed, cross in as few places as possible, make clean careful cuts, and store the removed stones next to wall for possible future restoration.
- If streams must be crossed in pre-contact sensitive areas, disturb the minimal amount of land as possible.
- Harvest special management areas in winter over frozen and, ideally, snow covered ground (no less than 20" of snow cover and overnight temperature of below freezing are recommended minimum conditions).
(NOTE: locate and flag vulnerable cultural features BEFORE snow covers the ground so that snow-covered stone walls, cellar holes, and other surface remains are not accidentally destroyed during operations.)

- Hand cut trees within special management areas. Don't use skidders in such areas, don't build roads in such areas.
- Don't use cellar holes or site areas as slash dumps.
- Use the "full line" technique to prevent damage to specific resources or sensitive areas.
- Consider using fabric mats or other ground buffer if activities have to be carried out in unfrozen/snowless conditions.

Should historic and archeological resources be reported to anyone?

It's not required but it would be helpful if you reported sites to the State Archaeologist. Such information contributes a lot to Vermont's ever-accumulating historic body of knowledge. The VT Division for Historic Preservation maintains both the Vermont Archeological Inventory and the Historic Sites and Structures Survey for buildings and structures. The Division welcomes any information on historic and archeological resources that you may learn about. The Division can provide you with site survey forms for your use in documenting the resource.

What are the easily accessible sources of historic information that I can start using myself?

- The landowner him/herself.
- Long-time town clerks and road commissioners.
- Local histories (**available in many public libraries, at local historical society, sometimes at town clerk's office**)
- Local historians (are especially knowledgeable about a town's history and locations if various historic sites). For a listing of historical societies in your area, go to http://vermonthistory.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=232
- Beers Atlas for each country/each town (mapped between 1869-1871):
 - **available in many public libraries**
 - **can be purchased from <http://www.old-maps.com/vermont.htm>**
- Other 19th century county/town maps (for example, the Walling maps mapped in 1859):
 - **available in some public libraries**
 - **can be purchased from <http://www.old-maps.com/vermont.htm>**

- many historic maps are available for FREE on the internet, go to:
 - <http://www.historicvermont.org/impls/historic%20maps%20on%20line.pdf>
 - <http://www.old-maps.com/vermont.htm>
- Other sources of Native American pre-contact and historic information:
 - VT Division for Historic Preservation web site at <http://www.historicvermont.org/>
 - VT Historical Society on line history journals:
http://vermonthistory.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=166
 - For an amazing collection of thousands of historic photographs of Vermont's landscapes and villages and sites go to UVM's Landscape Change Program at <http://www.uvm.edu/landscape/dating/index.php>

Are there consultants who can help identify historic and archeological resources?

Yes. Lists of qualified archeologists and architectural historians are available from the Division online at http://www.historicvermont.org/programs/consult_list.pdf. These consultants can conduct various levels of archeological and historic assessments, from field visits to background research in histories and maps, to deed research, to on-site training and educational programs, to field investigation of a site's significance, to documentation and evaluation of historic buildings and structures. Consulting archeologists can prepare historic resource sections of your management plan.

SEE ATTACHED "TABLE OF HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN VERMONT'S FORESTS"

For more information contact:

Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation
National Life, Floor 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-1201(802) 828-3050
Email: giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us
Web site: <http://www.historicvermont.org/>

For additional information about Vermont archeology and Native Americans:

Abenaki Nation of Vermont - <http://www.abenakination.org/front.html>

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. <http://www.lcmm.org>

University of Maine Farmington. Archaeology Research Center -
<http://archaeology.umf.maine.edu/education.html>

University of Vermont's Consulting Archaeology Program –
<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmcap/content.html>

Vermont Archaeological Society -
<http://vtarchaeology.org/cms/>

Vermont Agency of Transportation Archeological and Historic Resources –
<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/archaeology/design/default.htm>

Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs - <http://www.vcnaa.com/>

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation - (VT State Historic Preservation Office)
<http://www.historicvermont.org/>

Chimney Point State Historic Site - <http://www.historicvermont.org/chimneypoint/>

Mount Independence State Historic Site –
<http://www.middlebury.edu/~mtindep>
<http://www.historicvermont.org/mountindependence/>

State-owned Historic Sites –
<http://www.historicvermont.org/sites/>

Underwater Preserve System –
http://lcmm.org/site/index/framesets/mri_framesets/frameset_mri_underwater.html

Vermont Gas - - Rock River Valley Pathway to the Past. Archeology Educator's Guide.
http://www.vermontgas.com/about/educators_guide.html

Vermont Historical Society –
<http://www.vermonthistory.org/educate/lendkits/archaeology.htm>

Vermont State Archives – <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/archives/guide/aguide.htm>