

## Surveying and Cataloguing the State's Cultural Resources using GIS: Recent Progress & Next Steps

### PROJECT TITLE

Surveying and Cataloguing the State's Cultural Resources using GIS: Recent Progress and Next Steps

### STUDY TIMELINE

2019 - ongoing

### INVESTIGATORS

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More information about the VTrans Research Program, including additional Fact Sheets, can be found at:  
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

### Problem Statement

Currently, VTrans historic preservation staff use a variety of non-spatial data (primarily PDFs) from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the National Register website to perform the research necessary to support their project review process. The inefficiencies of this process are compounded by the fact that the research and outcome of the review are not archived in a manner that allows for the future query and extraction of this important information; precluding the ability to streamline decision making. Similarly, geospatial cultural resource data collected and/or provided by VTrans consultants is not purposefully archived or shared with other stakeholders.

### Methodology

The VTrans Cultural Resources Team and VHB have developed GIS and web-based tools to collect, archive, and share information concerning historic and archaeological resources. Using the Section 106 mitigation requirements of Middlebury WRCS(23) as an impetus, VHB created custom applications using Esri's ArcGIS Collector and Survey 123 to document Middlebury's historic resources using mobile devices. A web map is used to review and share this information.



### Next Steps

VTrans and VHB are now evaluating next steps: how to incorporate existing non-spatial data managed by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation into the GIS to facilitate future project review and eventually provide a resource for users outside VTrans.

### Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

A comprehensive cultural resources GIS would greatly streamline the project review process, with associated cost benefits. Multiple VTrans sections would be able to access the information to assist with project-related or other decision-making. Such a GIS could readily be made public-facing, allowing consultants to submit projects for review or merely act as a resource for the population at large. By phasing out conventional means of document sharing (*i.e.*, going paperless), such a GIS enhances business continuity during times of disruption (such as the current pandemic) and facilitates project transition should staff members be reassigned.