

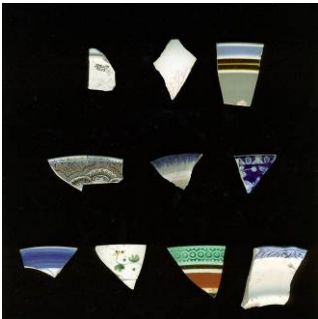


Fact Sheet

Archaeological Resources

What is it?

Archaeology is the study of human cultures based on the materials left behind. This can include architecture, artifacts, languages, or other remains. Some common artifacts found at similar sites are shown in the figures below.



Dish shards, a spoon, and a door key unearthed from a survey dig.

Archaeological investigations occur in a three phase process. As part of the first phase, archaeologists locate any sites that could be affected by an alternative. This could happen on the Milton-Madison Project as early as Fall 2009. The second phase involves testing and evaluating sites identified in Phase I to see if they are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is the inventory for historic resources. In Phase III, if an eligible site can not be avoided by a proposed undertaking, the effect upon the site is usually mitigated through a data recovery plan.

Why is it important?

Archaeological resources are protected under state and federal laws. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires coordination with consulting parties, resource agencies, and the public on these issues. Preservation and protection of cultural resources (archaeological and historic resources) must be considered in the decision-making process for all federal projects.

Where is it found?

The exact locations of archaeological sites are not disclosed in order to protect these fragile resources. Archaeologists have identified known sites in the study area and will give them due consideration during alternatives development and evaluation stages.

A number of known sites have been identified in downtown Madison and along both shores of the Ohio River. Additional sites may be identified during Phase I investigations or as the result of Section 106 consultation.

How does it affect the project?

The location and quality of resources can have an impact on project costs. Where possible, alternatives will be tailored to avoid or minimize negative impacts to archaeological sites. However, if sites are found, determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and determined to be adversely affected by the project, then consultation will continue to try to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those adverse effects on the site or sites.