



Regulations linked to the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) helped them decide. These laws required officials to **stop, look, and listen** before they made decisions that put the area's cultural resources at risk.

The agencies considered feedback from archaeologists and architectural historians. They also asked for input from local citizens and community groups.



*Louisville citizens participate in bridges public meeting*

Then they made their decision. The agencies modified construction plans to preserve the best examples of the area's history. They hired specialists who studied historic buildings and neighborhoods and ancient Native American campsites before construction destroyed those places. The agencies let poorly preserved structures and less important archaeological sites go.



*Archaeologists excavate in downtown Louisville*

## Old Places, New Bridges

America's highways and bridges are important. They knit our country together. Without them, travel would be difficult. Commerce would slow to a trickle.

Places where historical events occurred, and the traces that reflect when and how people once lived and worked – our cultural resources, are important, too.

### Can't We Have Both?

Building highways and bridges puts America's cultural resources at risk of damage or destruction. For this reason, they need protection.

But the choices are hard. Preserve the sites and structures, or destroy them to make way for the new?

How *did* governmental agencies involved in the **Louisville Bridges Project (LBP)**, such as the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), make this choice when planning for the new bridges that now span the Ohio River at Louisville?

### For More Information

About NHPA and other preservation laws, go to the National Park Service's website [bit.ly/NHPreservationAct](http://bit.ly/NHPreservationAct)

Go to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website for A Citizen's Guide to Section 106 [bit.ly/ACHPSection106](http://bit.ly/ACHPSection106)

About NEPA, go to the Council for Environmental Quality web site [ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_nepa.html](http://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)

Visit [www.in.gov/indot/3696.htm](http://www.in.gov/indot/3696.htm) for other Ohio River Bridges educational materials

Find other KYTC archaeology information at [transportation.ky.gov/Archaeology](http://transportation.ky.gov/Archaeology)



Scan me



STEWARDSHIP  
OF OUR PAST  
at the New Louisville Bridges



## What is NHPA?

Cultural resources are an important part of American community life. NHPA is designed to preserve these historical and cultural foundations for future generations. If a cultural resource cannot be preserved, NHPA makes sure that it will be *investigated, documented, interpreted, and remembered.*

NHPA established federal and state regulatory offices to decide – through the Section 106 Review Process – which cultural resources should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the official list of cultural resources that are worth preserving. It includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. To be listed, a resource must be important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture.

Jefferson County has 488 listed cultural resources – the most of any Kentucky county! Examples include the Harrods Creek and Highlands historic



1906 Grocers Ice and Cold Storage Company building

districts, the KYANG and Portland Wharf archaeological sites, Jefferson-town Colored School, Churchill Downs, Bernheim Distillery Bottling Plant, and the Olmsted Park System.

The Section 106 Review Process requires all projects involving federal action, funding, or approval (through permit or license) to follow several steps before they start.

Agencies must *identify* the cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register that might be affected. They must assess what those effects might be.

Agencies must *consult* with individuals and community organizations to make informed decisions.

Then, agencies must look for ways to *avoid, minimize, or mitigate* (lessen the severity of) project impacts to the most important cultural resources.

Only *then* can a project begin.



Brick foundation uncovered by archaeologists

## What is NEPA?

NEPA is our nation's charter for environmental protection.

Like NHPA, NEPA requires agencies to find out how publicly funded projects will affect the human landscape. Agencies must look for ways to mitigate negative impacts a project may have on cultural resources.

Unlike NHPA, under NEPA, agencies also must consider impacts to endangered or sensitive species and their habitats, and social and economic impacts to communities.

## Stewards of Our Past

America's historic and archaeological sites and structures are the traces of our past. These places hold our collective stories – stories often not found in history books. They link us to people and times long ago, and remind us of who we are as Americans.

Knowing about how governmental agencies use NHPA and NEPA means you can help agencies make informed preservation choices. You can bring your community's important cultural resources to their attention.

KYTC is a responsible steward of Kentucky's cultural resources. When making decisions, its goal is to strike a balance.

KYTC mitigates the potential impacts of highway and bridge construction on Kentucky's rich, but fragile cultural resources. It also maintains, modernizes, and improves the safety of Kentucky's transportation network.

KYTC can't save every site...

But because of NHPA and NEPA, KYTC **stops, looks, and listens.** It investigates and documents those we will lose.

For the LBP, archaeologists and architectural historians recorded many ancient Native American and historic sites and structures prior to construction. They excavated and reported on several of the most important ones.

The LBP illustrates how KYTC considers old places even as it builds new bridges. And with this brochure, KYTC seeks to inform citizens how it accomplishes both goals, for the benefit of all Kentuckians.



Partly excavated ancient Native American pit feature



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