

AIA SHPO Updates 6/15/24:

- SHPO physically moved to IEDA in December 2023. We are no longer at the historical society. We are now a part of the IEDA legal department. We continue to work collaboratively with the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) on many projects.
- All our paper files (NADB, HADB, Inventory Forms, etc.) are being digitized. The process is taking some time because there was a lot of paper. We have no idea when that will be complete, but we hope to be able to provide everything we have to consultants in a digital format.
- We finished the Preserve Iowa Summit last week. There was an absence of archaeological topics. I would like to increase the number of archaeological presentations so that we can highlight more than the preservation of properties from the last 150 years. What can SHPO do to encourage more active participation from AIA members? Please let us know (branden.scott@iowaeda.com).
- Dan and Berry retired. We hope to have an archaeologist in place in early July. We are still in the process of hiring a built environment reviewer position, who will focus on tax credits. If you have inventory questions, reach out to Penny Wilcoxson (penny.wilcoxson@iowaeda.com) or Lorinda Bradley (Lorinda.bradley@iowaeda.com).
- We were making progress on the GIS backlog. And then Dan retired so progress slowed. We are hoping to get back to it once the new hire is in place. We are giving data to OSA a couple of times a year. If you want the GIS survey layer, please make a records request and we will see what we can provide. FYI: We only map surveys that meet Phase I (or above) standards. Reconnaissance/Phase IAs do not get mapped, although we do keep copies in our IADB system.
- The OSA TR Layer in I-Sites does not necessarily represent reports/surveys that SHPO has reviewed or agreed with. If you have a question about our thoughts on a survey from that layer, ask. In that regard, archaeological site forms give a consultant recommendation on eligibility, not the SHPO opinion. If you have a question, ask, because this database on I-Sites has not been updated in a long time and I'm not sure if/when an update will occur.
- It is no longer NADB. It is IADB. And really, we don't need the form as long as pertinent information is present in the report. This information is filled out in our system after report review. There were too many people doing the form in different ways, and it was making the database unsearchable for many of the fields.
- We are anticipating a lot of broadband fiber projects across Iowa. If you are looking at these, SHPO recommends projects follow the FEMA guidelines for

reconductoring projects as most of these are within ditches with a narrow-cut trench. Please make sure to work with whomever hired you, as the federal agency determines what is sufficient survey, but the FEMA methodology is what SHPO has been recommending to agencies.

- We are still reviewing significant number of undertakings, averaging about 150 Section 106 projects/month with an average turnaround time of 11.6 days.
- We notice a backlog for people finding archaeological and architectural history consultants to undertake survey work. We are open to suggestions on how to support filling the need for these roles. If we can help, let heather.gibb@iowaeda.com know.
- CLG grants are still a thing, and we encourage research into archaeological topics. The more research-focused, the better. HRDP grants were paused for the year due to realignment issues. CLG grants reside with SHPO. HRDP grants reside with SHSI.
- The role of SHPO in State-owned historic properties became vague after the realignment and code changes. The role of review for effects to historic properties owned/managed by the state continued to reside with SHSI, but they had no qualified staff to review projects. State agencies continued to work with our office nonetheless and code changes will be completed in July to return this consultation role back to the SHPO.
- Role of consultant in the 106 process: We would like to reiterate that it is the federal agency that makes a determination of effect, which includes thinking about more than archaeological resources. They must also consider above ground and the results of tribal consultation. So please refrain from making recommendations concerning determinations of effect.