

Guidance on Photography for Historic Preservation Reviews

Why are photographs important for NHPA Section 106 (Historic Review) compliance?

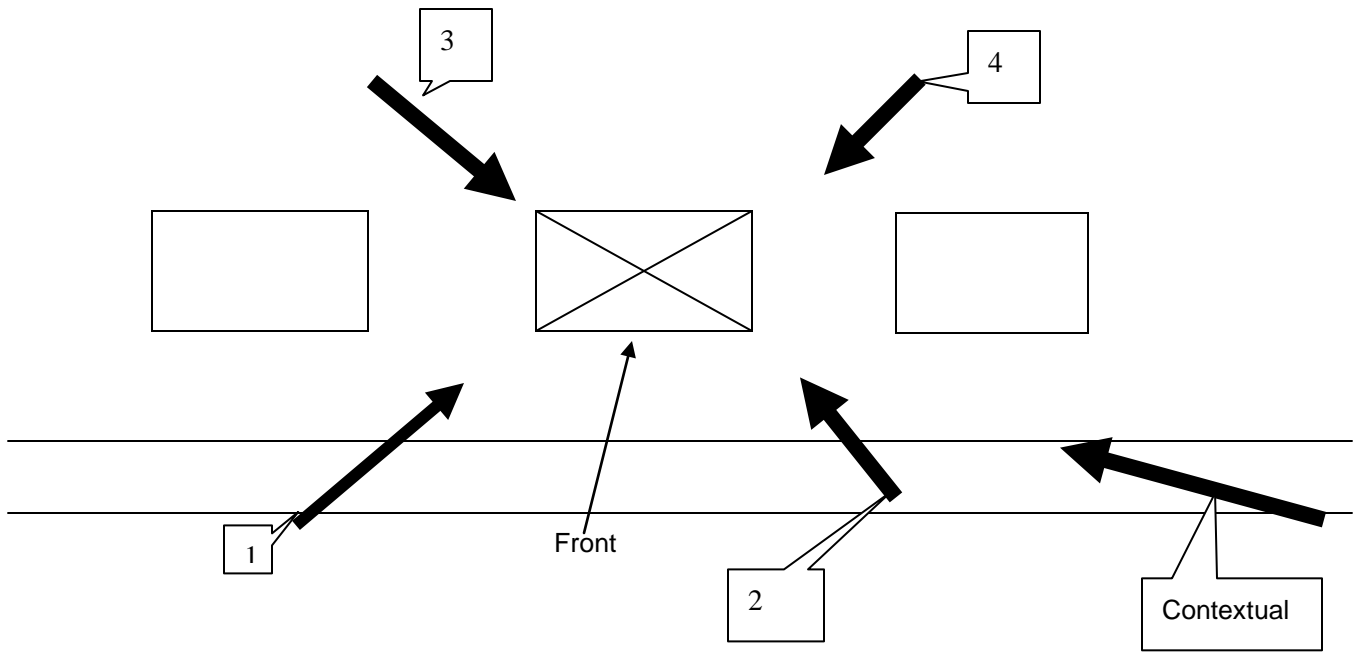
- A photograph is worth a thousand words.
- If the appropriate photographs are taken the Historic Specialist may not have to go on a site visit to view the resource, thereby speeding the review process.
- Clear and accurate photographs of the exterior of a building and the damage is mandatory as part of the consultation process with the New York State Historic Preservation Office. Generally, the more photographs taken, the better.

What should I photograph?

- Remember, all resources over 45 years old (pre-1973) are potentially historic and need to be flagged, so they go through historic review.
- Not only buildings may be historic. Other resources that may be significant include: bridges, culverts, street features (lamp posts, fences, old sidewalk and road surfaces), walls, tunnels, canals, towpaths, monuments, cemeteries, foundations, ruins, and archeological sites. ***What***

type of photographs should I take?

- Contextual
 - Photographs of the surroundings to provide a sense of the overall area, particularly important when the resource is located in historic or pristine settings. The information recorded in the contextual setting photographs will help in the review of potential historic and archeological resources. Potentially important features to include in contextual photographs include other buildings, gardens, landscaping, terrain and forests, and help to establish a sense, through photographs, of the Area of Potential Effect [APE].
- Exterior
 - Photograph the resource from far enough away so that the entire elevation is visible within the frame. All four elevations should be photographed.
 - If there are interesting features (e.g., architectural details of doors, windows, roofline cornice, etc.) take additional photographs focused on these elements.
- Damages
 - Take close up photographs of the damage, along with photographs that clearly indicate where the damage is located on the building.
 - If there is exterior damage, show it in both close up and wider angle views.
 - If there is interior damage, take close up photographs of the damage and wider angle photos of the interior room(s).



Contextual



Exterior (one for each side)



Damages