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NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN
GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING
AND DOCUMENTING
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES

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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register, History and Education



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Photo Captions: Left: Many traditional cultural properties are used for practical purposes by those who value them. This sedge preserve in northern California, for example, is tended and harvested by Pomi Indian basketmakers as a vital source of material for making their world famous baskets. The preserve was established at lake sonoma by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photo by Richard Lerner. Right: This bedrock mortar in central California plays an essential role in processing Black Oak acorns. (Photo courtesy Theodoratus Cultural Resource)

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Introduction

What are traditional cultural properties?
Purpose of this bulletin

Ethnography, ethnohistory, ethnocentrism
Evaluation, consideration, and protection

Traditional Cultural Values in Preservation Planning

Identifying Traditional Cultural Properties

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Contacting traditional communities and groups
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Determining Eligibility Step-by-Step

Step One: Ensure that the entity under consideration is a property
Step Two: Consider the property's integrity
Step Three: Evaluate the property with reference to the National Register Criteria
Step Four: Determine whether any of the National Register criteria considerations (36 CFR 60.4) make the property ineligible

Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties: General Considerations

The problem of confidentiality
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Appendix II: Professional Qualifications: Ethnography

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