

Policy for User Access to Vermont Archaeological Inventory Online Research Center

The Vermont Archaeological Inventory (VAI) is Vermont's inventory of recorded precontact (prehistoric), contact, and historic period archaeological resources. The VAI also contains information about archaeological investigations and research projects. The current VAI contains nearly 6000 site records, a significant portion of which are archived as legacy data in the Online Research Center (ORC). The VAI ORC is not a comprehensive listing of all the archaeological sites in Vermont, and many site locations have not been verified for accuracy. The VAI has been developed to meet federal and state mandates, as a tool for preservation of resources through planning, for the review of projects for compliance with federal and state preservation legislation, and as a research tool for qualified researchers. The VAI is managed by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) which serves as the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office.

Federal and state agencies have legal responsibilities to safeguard locational information about archaeological resources and are authorized to restrict access to site locations and other information about cultural resources. Title 22 of *Vermont Statutes Annotated*, Section 761 (the *Vermont Historic Preservation Act*, as amended) establishes that the location of archaeological sites, both on land and underwater, is confidential except under limited circumstances. VDHP may provide locational information to appropriate individuals and organizations for research and planning purposes. Title 1 of *Vermont Statutes Annotated*, Section 317(c) (20) specifically exempts the locations of archaeological sites on land and underwater from public disclosure. The National Historic Preservation Act, 16 United States Code § 470w-3(a), and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (16 USC 470hh) offer similar protections under federal law.

Individuals wanting access to the VAI ORC must complete and submit a VAI ORC User Application to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The following categories of users may be considered eligible for access to the VAI and may receive user accounts for access to the ORC.

1. State and Federal Agency – Agency cultural resource managers.
2. Certified Local Governments (National Park Service Certified) – 1) Cultural Preservation Office staff working under the direction of the City or County Cultural Preservation Officer who meets the Secretary of Interior's Professional Standards, or 2) CLG Commissioners who meet Secretary of Interior's professional standards (36 CFR 61). The City or County Preservation Officer or Commissioner must sign the "ORC User Application" as the responsible institution/agency/company representative.
3. Counties and other Municipal Governments – Historic preservation staff/officers who meet the Secretary of Interior's professional standards (36 CFR 61) and are acting for the municipality in a historic preservation program capacity.

4. Consulting Firms, both profit and non-profit, who are carrying out historic preservation activities - Cultural resource staff who individually meet or are working under the direct supervision of a Principal Investigator who meets the Secretary of Interior's professional standards (36 CFR 61). The company owner or organization's director must sign the "ORC User Application" as the responsible institution/agency/company representative.
5. Researchers – University/College Professors who meet the Secretary of Interior's professional standards (36 CFR 61) and students working directly under the direction of a University/College Professor. The Professor must sign the "ORC User Application" as a representative of the responsible institution/agency/company official.