

A post office was established seven miles southwest of Winchester by German blacksmith Emil Leon Plath in 1888, and the settlement came to be known as Leon. The nearby gold mines were discovered in 1894 (taking their name from their proximity to the post office), and by the following year a blacksmith shop, roller mill and boarding house were constructed. The mines were not particularly productive and were closed down around the turn of the century; postal service was discontinued in 1911.

### 3.12.2 Cultural Resource Regulations

Prehistoric, historic, multi-component (containing both historic and prehistoric), and historic architectural resource sites are found within the WT Corridor. Historic and historic architectural resources are concentrated in more urbanized environments, and archaeological sites are concentrated along stream courses and the bases of topographic features. The majority of cultural resource sites identified within the WT Corridor have not been evaluated for eligibility for listing on either the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); however, there are important resources present in some areas.

Prehistoric archaeological sites are defined as those cultural resources where prehistoric use and/or occupation is evidenced. Historic archaeological sites are those sites where historic remains are present, and there is an absence of remaining buildings, structures, or objects. Historic architectural resource sites are those areas where historic buildings, structures, or objects remain. Finally, multi-component sites are those site that contain a mixture of one, or more, of the preceding types. Therefore, multi-component sites include prehistoric archaeological sites that contain artifacts from multiple time periods, sites containing both historic and prehistoric components, and historic and prehistoric archaeological sites containing historic architecture resources.

Cultural resources are protected under a variety of federal, State and local regulations. Federal regulations are primarily encompassed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f) as promulgated in 36 CFR Part 800, as amended July 1, 2001. Section 4(f) of the United States Code (49 U.S.C. §303) provides direction for Department of Transportation projects on the protection of public lands, including historic sites. In addition, Public Laws 95-341, and 103-141, and Executive Order 13007, relating to American Indian religious freedom and sacred sites, apply to those resources and geographical areas determined to have a sacred and/or religious significance to the Native American population. The National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, NEPA) addresses project impacts to the environment, including cultural resources, and Executive Order 12898 addresses environmental justice concerns as they pertain to low income and minority groups. Case law has demonstrated that Executive Order 12898 applies to Native Americans.

The proposed WT project is a federal undertaking because it will receive federal funds, and will require Federal permits to be constructed. Due to its status as a federal undertaking, cultural resources identified within the project area must be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Under Section 106, cultural resource compliance efforts will be carried out in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Cultural resource compliance efforts for this project may presented as a phased identification process as allowed under 36 CFR 800.4 (b)(2), which states, “Where

alternatives under consideration consist of corridors or large land areas, or where access to properties is restricted, the Agency Official may use a phased process to conduct identification and evaluation efforts.” Under this section, the Agency official may defer final identification and evaluation of historic properties if it is specifically provided for in a Memorandum of Agreement. FHWA is consulting with the SHPO on the use of the phased identification process.

State regulations [Public Resource Code Sections 5020.7, 5024.1(a), 5024.1(g), 21083.2, 21084.1, and Executive Order V-26-92] pertain to the need to assess the presence and importance of cultural resources that may be affected by a project. In addition, the cultural resource investigations conducted for the WT Corridor were consistent with current cultural resource protocols for Caltrans as provided in the Caltrans Draft Environmental Handbook, Volume 2, Cultural Resources (July, 2001), an interim document.

### 3.12.3 Research Methodology

#### 3.12.3.1 Records Search

During August through November, 2001, a cultural resource records search was conducted through the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside, to identify resources within 812 meters (one-half mile) of the centerline of each proposed alternative. Four data classes were to be recovered from the records search: previously surveyed properties within and adjacent to the alternative; previously identified prehistoric and historic sites within and adjacent to the alternative; previously identified historical architectural resources within and adjacent to the alternative; and any recorded traditional cultural properties or sacred sites within or adjacent to the proposed alternatives. Where surveys were encountered that entered the records search area, the entire survey boundary was mapped. This allows assessment of the type and coverage of the survey and provided general information on the amount of study in the area. The records search secured Primary Records for sites within the records search boundaries, and information on the site type and context is synthesized in the cultural resource technical report.

The following inventories were reviewed to identify the presence or absence of cultural resources within the Study Area:

- Review of listings in the National Register of Historic Places and current updates (*Directory of Determinations of Eligibility*, California Office of Historic Preservation, Volumes I and II, 1990; and Office of Historic Preservation Computer Listing 1990 and updates);
- *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (1976 et seq.);
- *California Historical Landmarks* (1990 et. seq.);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (May 1992 et. seq.);
- *Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory*;
- Eastern Information Center listing of National Register evaluated properties (2001)

Repositories and individuals were contacted to identify known historic land uses and the locations of research materials pertinent to the project area: