

Surveying Individual Properties

Photograph the Resource(s) Using appropriate photographic equipment to produce photographic documentation meeting DHR Guidelines requirements for reconnaissance-level (identification) surveys take:

- a minimum of two to three exterior photos of the primary resource, showing building front, rear, and sides, using oblique (45-degree-angle) views to capture two elevations in one view where site lines allow; close-up views, including architectural and/or construction details; and property setting--i.e., the resource's physical context such as a residential yard, capturing landscape elements including plant materials, fences, walls, etc.; and
- one to two exterior photos of each secondary resource and significant landscape features.

If recording buildings for a historic district inventory, at a minimum take:

- one to two exterior photos of each primary resource in the historic district, clearly showing the building façade and a side elevation in an oblique (45-degree-angle) view where sight lines allow, and depicting the property's setting; and
- one exterior photo of each secondary resource.

For exterior photography for intensive-level (evaluation) surveys (note that interior photography is also required for intensive-level survey--see below) take:

- five to ten exterior photos of the primary resource (including front, rear, sides, architectural and/or construction details, close-up views, and setting); and
- one to two exterior photos of any secondary resources and significant landscape features.

One photo clearly showing no more than three small secondary resources, such as a garage and two sheds, is acceptable. However, a photo of several buildings seen in the distance is not acceptable, unless photos showing the resources at closer range accompany this view.

For all photos, resources--especially primary resources--should be photographed in clear view, unobstructed to the greatest extent possible by trees and other vegetation, by parked cars, or by other visual barriers. It may be necessary to time the photography in terms of lighting, foliage season, and minimal street traffic to obtain the best possible photograph of the resource.

Courtesy of: http://dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Survey%20Manual-RevOct.2011Final.pdf