The survey intent is neither an architectural nor an archaeological documentation of resources. Such would be an intensive survey in the language of the Standards and Guidelines. Instead the Rural Survey is intended as a preliminary identification and evaluation of historic resources in counties experiencing financial redevelopment through the general force of urbanization and specifically the Economic Recovery Tax Act and federal activity requiring "review and compliance" under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Hence, the survey's classification system is based on the latest scholarship; but its primary use is for preservation, although it is hoped scholars will find it helpful in their own work.

The final product has two parts: (1) survey cards and maps and (2) a report. It is the latter which distinguish the preservation purposes of the survey and compliance with federal standards. Hence, your survey contract requires a report with the following components:

- a survey summary satisfying the research design; namely, identification of categories of resources especially endangered by urbanization and industrialization (principally surface mining); itemization of specific endangered resources suitable for further investigation ("intensive survey") as National Register places; recommendations of other (besides National Register) general preservation strategies; identification of resource categories little known or unidentified elsewhere in Illinois; and a characterization of current clusterings of resource types within the county, the present condition of those resources, and assessment of preservation opportunities (especially National Register designation) in those resource clusters;

Survey cards, maps, and reports have several preservation uses. First, the data on the cards and maps can be used to facilitate a preliminary appraisal of pending impacts. A site inspection may be necessary to add information for determining what course to take, however. The data on the cards and maps and reports also is used to evaluate resources considered for the National Register. This is especially true for common resources currently little understood in the scholarly literature. Often these are resources difficult to evaluate because they are proposed in a random sequence stemming from citizen initiative. Second, survey records make it easier to identify places deserving National Register designation, although intensive surveys are necessary for documentation sufficient to prepare nomination forms.