

**POLICY AND PROCEDURES REGARDING HISTORICAL-PERIOD WASTE PILES**

A.R.S. § 41-841 and § 41-844;

Rules Implementing A.R.S. § 15-1631 and § 41-841, et seq., The Arizona Antiquities Act, Policy 8-205(B), Duty to Report Discoveries, and Policy 8-206, Authority to Waive Regulations

I. Definitions

- A. “Mass-produced, historical-period artifacts” means artifacts more than 50 years old that were created as a result of automated mechanical processes.
- B. “Isolated Occurrence” (IO) means an artifact or isolated feature that does not meet the Arizona State Museum (ASM) site definition policy.
- C. “Historical-period waste pile” means a “roughly bounded, open, mostly surficial, deposit...of [historical-period] rubbish, garbage, or both. These piles may be found as integral parts of the source property or at a distance from the source. They represent a single or a minimal use of an area by an individual or group” (Majewski 2005:15).
- D. “Open Dump” means “a large area where there has been repeated dumping of [historical-period] solid waste by a number of different individuals over a sustained period of time. An open dump may be designated and managed by the community or it may be a communally recognized area used for dumping with no clear management. They are like waste piles in that they are roughly bounded and open. They differ from waste piles by representing long-term deposition from a wide variety of sources” (Majewski 2005:16).

II. Policy

Due to the increasing number of historical-period archaeological sites, archaeologists spend significant amounts of time recording mass-produced, historical-period artifacts. Therefore, in specific circumstances, a historical-period waste pile composed of mass-produced, historical-period artifacts may be recorded as an Isolated Occurrence (IO). In such cases, neither the assignment of an ASM site number nor the submission of a site card is required.

III. Procedures

- A. If one waste pile is located within 100 meters of another waste pile, both may be recorded as independent IOs.
- B. If a waste pile is associated with a significant in-use historic thoroughfare or property, and thereby would not qualify as an archaeological site, it must still be recorded as an IO and the association must be noted in the report.
- C. If a waste pile is identified within 100 meters of a prehistoric feature or a scatter of prehistoric artifacts that doesn't qualify as a site on its own merit (i.e., less than 30 artifacts of a single prehistoric class, or less than 20 artifacts of multiple prehistoric artifact classes are present), each feature/scatter may be recorded as an independent IO. Professional judgement may be used.

- D. A waste pile cannot be recorded as an IO in the following circumstances:
1. If one waste pile is located within 100 meters of another type of historic feature, the features should be recorded as a single archaeological site.
 2. If a waste pile is associated with an abandoned portion of a historic structure or property, the two, together, qualify as an archaeological site, and they must be recorded or updated under an ASM site number.
- E. For each historical-period waste pile recorded as an IO, a description of the feature and the identified artifacts must be provided in the project report. The description must include:
1. An estimated count of each identifiable artifact type;
 2. the length and width of the artifact scatter;
 3. for each class of artifact: verbal descriptions of examples of maker's marks, embossing, evidence of distinctive production techniques, and/or any diagnostic attributes, if present; and
 4. a description of the evidence that suggests the artifact scatter represents a single or a minimal use of an area by an individual or group.
- F. Each waste pile recorded as an IO must be plotted on a map based on a 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map, at 1:24,000 scale, neither enlarged nor reduced, using the IO's UTM center point.
- G. IOs must be summarized in tabular format when more than two are recorded. Required information includes IO number, a brief description (artifact types[s], quantity, areal extent), available cultural and temporal information, and UTM coordinates.
- H. Include in report text the source(s) used to estimate the age of the mass-produced, historical-period artifacts.
- I. ASM does not accept site updates for IOs (including historical-period waste piles) that were previously assigned ASM site numbers.
- J. Field archaeologists may use their discretion when determining whether or not a historical-period artifact scatter qualifies as a waste pile; however, the ultimate decision lies with ASM.
- K. This policy does not apply to open dumps or prehistoric artifact scatters.
- L. With the permission of the land managing agency, this policy may be applied in relation to historical-period waste piles identified on lands other than those covered by the Arizona Antiquities Act.

Reference:

Majewski, Teresita (editor)

2005 *Down in the Dumps: Context Statement and Guidance on Historical-Period Waste Management and Refuse Deposits*. State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks and Trails, Phoenix.

Available at: <https://azstateparks.com/shpo-review-and-compliance>