

Traditional Cultural Properties

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SEARCH



Bulletin 38 Defined

Traditional Cultural Properties are properties (typically places) that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register because of their “association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community’s history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.”

TCPs Must Be Places

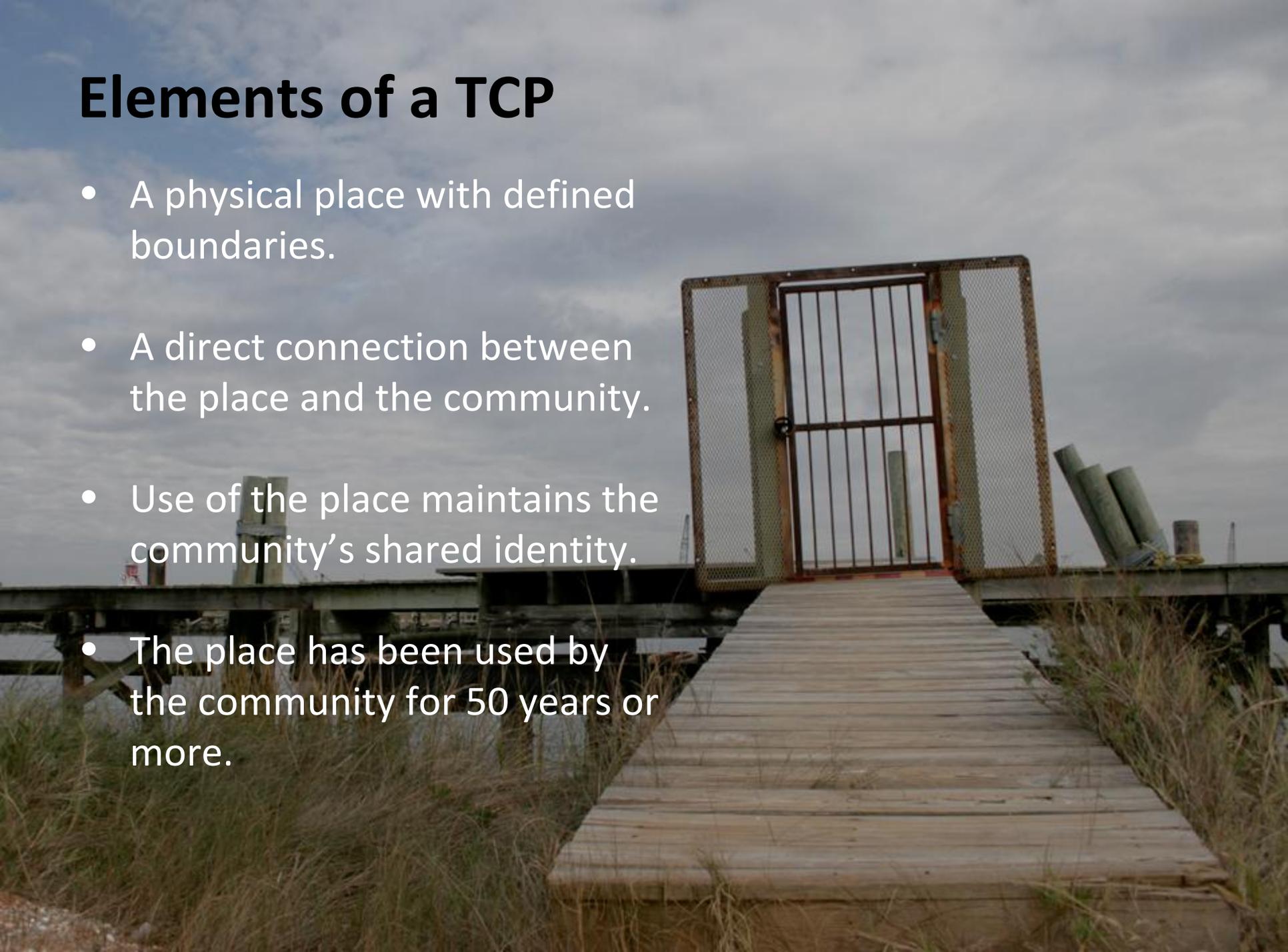
- Cultural practices are necessary to define TCPs, but cultural practices are not TCPs.
- If a historic property does not have current cultural significance it is not a TCP.
- TCPs include historic buildings, historic structures, historic objects, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, and historic districts.
- TCPs always have a geographical reference point.

TCP Requirements

- The place must meet the criteria for being a “historic property.”
- The place must have a living community associated with it.
- The community’s association with the place must be made through historically rooted practices and/or beliefs that are important in maintaining the continued cultural identity of the community.

Elements of a TCP

- A physical place with defined boundaries.
- A direct connection between the place and the community.
- Use of the place maintains the community's shared identity.
- The place has been used by the community for 50 years or more.



What Makes a Community?

- Moderate size
- Stability
- Multi-generational
- Shared language
- Shared history
- Shared culture
- Significant social interactions
- Self-Identification



TCP Methodology

- Historical Research
- Oral Histories/Interviews
- Transcripts
- Soundscapes
- Photography
- Film
- Mapping/GIS



Possible TCP Candidates

- Ceremonial locations
- Sacred landscapes
- Culturally affiliated churches
- Culturally affiliated burial grounds
- Culturally affiliated buildings/structures
- Historic annual events
- Culturally significant waterways, docks, piers
- Sweetgrass gathering areas (Gullah)
- Culturally significant fishing grounds (shrimping)
- Clay sources for traditional pottery (Catawba)

Case Study Discussion

