

An inventory of man-made structures must distinguish between renewable materials and cultural materials. Renewable materials are those which are easily replaceable. They include such items as surface coatings (paint), chain link fence and galvanized roofing. Cultural materials are those which are difficult to replace because of the scarcity of material and requirements for skilled craftsmen to recreate the resource. They include such items as sculptured stone and metals and dimension stone. There are several materials (e.g., adobe, plaster concrete and unit masonry) which could fall into either category depending on the craftsmanship requirements.

There is no national inventory of renewable materials which are susceptible to acidic deposition. Past efforts to create a national inventory for urban areas have combined per capita material estimates, based on limited survey data, and census data on population distribution. Although this approach to creating an inventory of renewable resources has been used, the resulting urban inventories are of questionable value due to the uncertainties associated with the per capita material estimates (Koontz et al. 1981; Stankunas et al. 1981). Results in two Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) indicate that the area of urban development and local availability of materials are important factors in the distribution of material quantities. There are no estimates of renewable materials in rural areas. Until additional survey work is complete, the Work Group cannot provide an acceptable national inventory of renewable materials or an estimate of materials by sulphur deposition regimes.

Complete national inventories of cultural materials are not available for either Canada or the U.S. Such national inventories would include all significant cultural materials, both historic and contemporary. The only inventory of cultural materials that can be assembled at this time is one of major historical resources. Both the U.S. and Canada maintain lists of significant historic sites and artifacts. The limitations of these sources are that they are incomplete in not listing all significant materials, such as sculpted stone and metals in urban areas and that the data on those items is not always adequate for an analysis of potential damage from air pollution.

8.5.1 U.S. Historic Inventory

The Work Group compiled a general U.S. inventory of historic resources based on Federal data sources. These sources were the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Federal Register 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982), National Historic Landmarks (USDI 1976) and National Historic Parks (USDI 1982). The National Register of Historic Places includes sites because of their association with an event or person, of their architectural or engineering qualities, or of their potential contribution to historic studies. It consists of approximately 26,000 sites and is the most comprehensive of all three