Indian Boarding Schools NHL Project

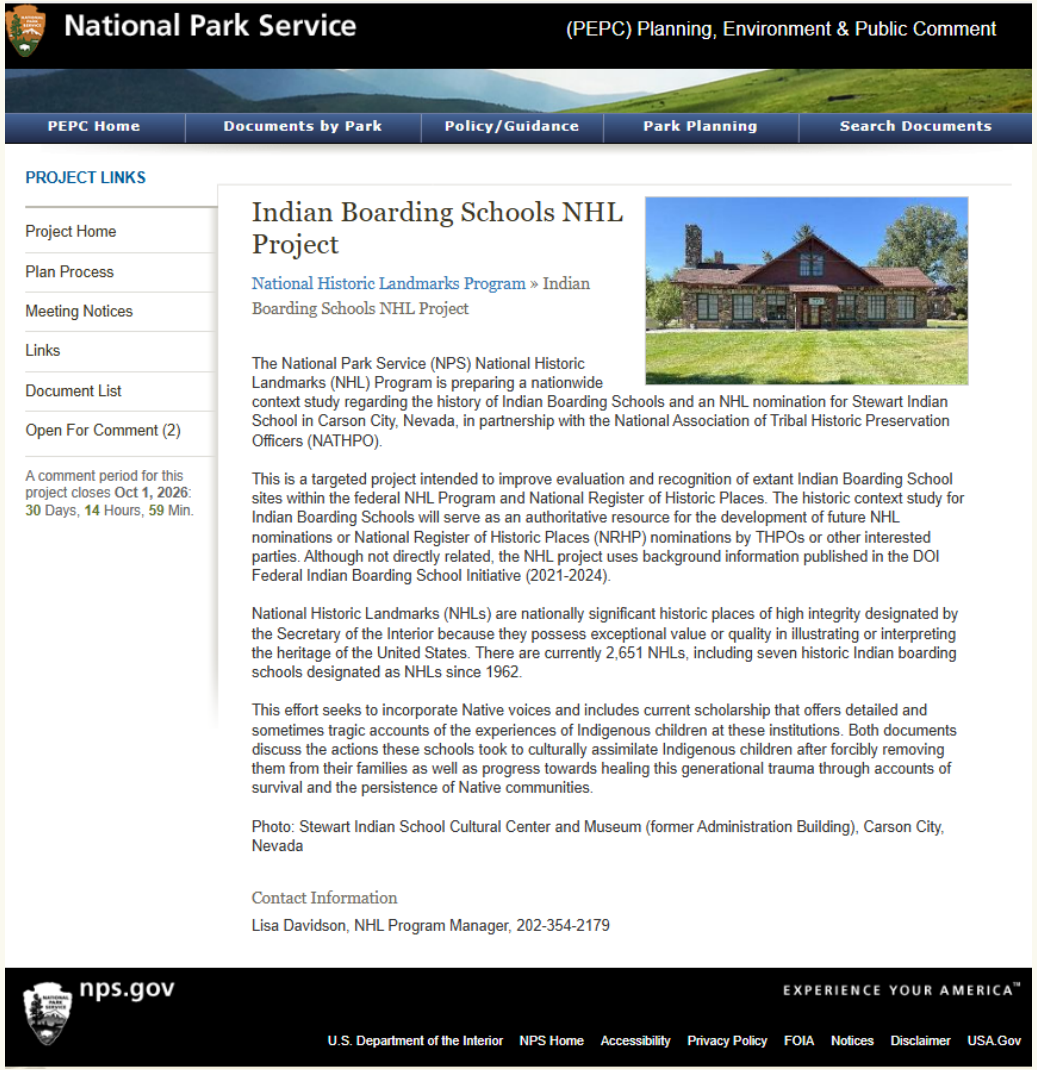
Nationwide Tribal Consultation Webinars

September 14-16, 2026

National Historic Landmarks Program

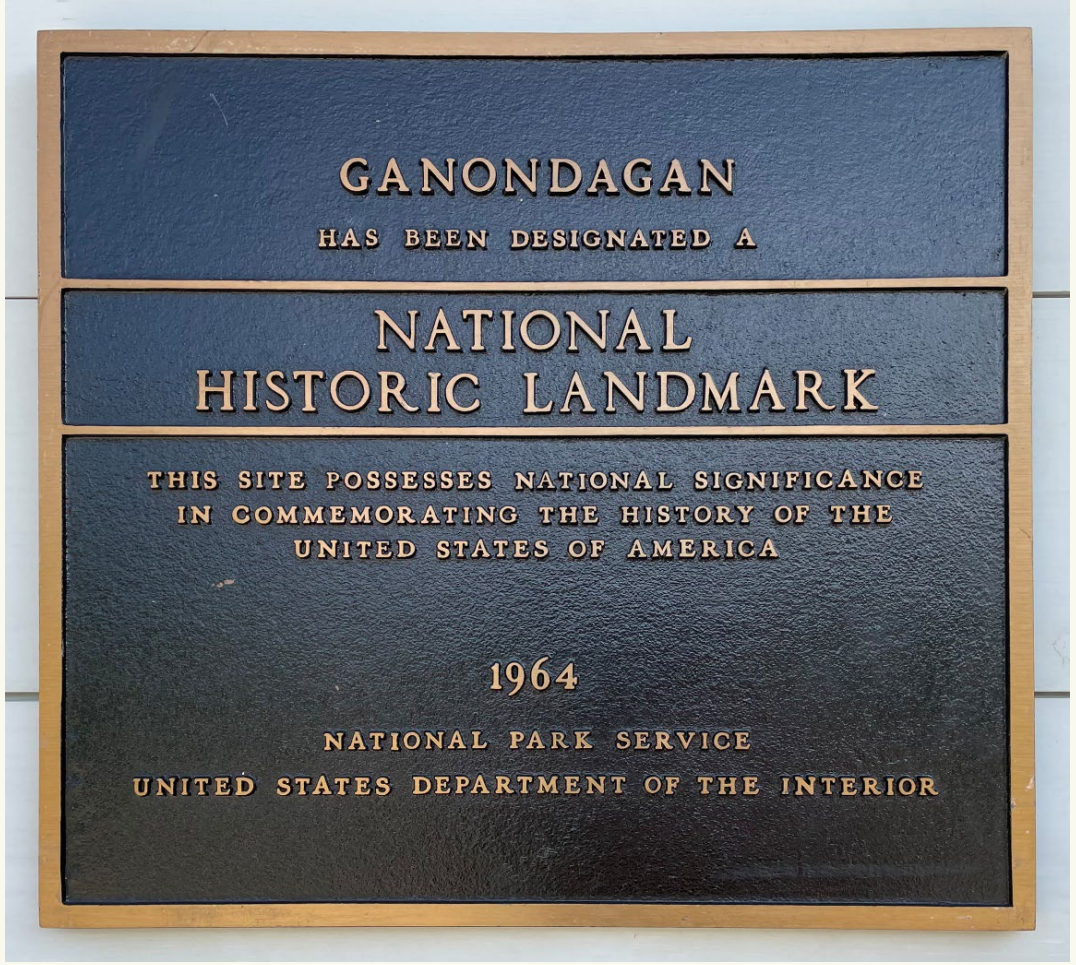
Washington, DC

- **Welcome and Introductions**: Joy Beasley, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Stewardship, and Science and Acting Associate Director, Natural Resources Stewardship and Science
- **Moment of Silence**
- **Project Overview**: Lisa Davidson, NHL Program Manager
  - What is a National Historic Landmark?
  - Nationwide Context Study
  - Stewart Indian Boarding School NHL Nomination
- **Discussion/Question & Answer**
- **Next Steps**



What are National Historic Landmarks?

- Nationally significant historic places possessing exceptional value in illustrating the history of the United States
- Designated by the Secretary of the Interior
- Buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts can be designated as NHLs
- NHLs can be privately or publicly owned
- 2,651 NHLs; 100,000+ National Register listings



Nationwide Context Study

Part I – Historic Context

Colonial Era (1500-1776)

U.S. Federal Era (1776-1830)

Removal Era (1830-1871)

Assimilation Era (1871-1934)

Reorganization Era (1934-1953)

Termination Era (1953-1968)

Self-Determination Era (1969-Present)



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Nationwide Context Study

Part II – Federal Designation of Historic Indian Boarding Schools

Wheelock Academy, OK (1832 and 1884) - NHL 1965

Shawnee Mission, KS (1839) - NHL 1968

Sheldon Jackson School, AK (1878) - NHL 2001

Hampton Institute, VA (1868) - NHL 1974

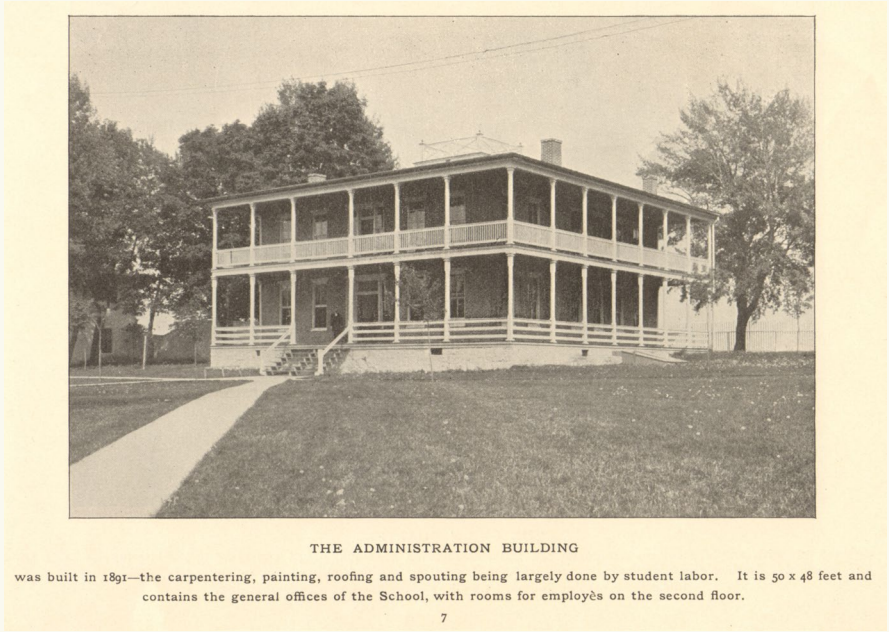
Carlisle Indian School, PA (1879) – NHL 1961

Haskell Institute, KS (1884) - NHL 1961

Fort Apache & Theodore Roosevelt School, AZ (1923) - NHL 2012



Haskell Institute, c. 1900. Source: Haskell Cultural Center & Museum



Carlisle Institute, c. 1895. Source: Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center

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Stewart Indian Boarding School NHL Nomination

- **NHL Significance Criteria**:
  - **Criterion 1** – Outstandingly representative of **broad national patterns in U.S. history** regarding the development and operation of off-reservation boarding schools for the forced assimilation of Native children
  - **Criterion 4** – Architectural significance for its distinctive masonry architecture and layout of its campus

- **Period of Significance**: 1890 to 1980

- Previously listed in the National Register on September 18, 1985



Gymnasium under construction, c. 1938.
Source: Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

Stewart Indian Boarding School NHL Nomination

- **Historic Integrity:**
  - Intact campus includes 81 contributing resources (out of 83 total)
  - Examples include the Administration Building (now Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum), living quarters, gymnasium, instructional buildings, barns, and the rodeo/hunting and gathering grounds which are included as a contributing site.

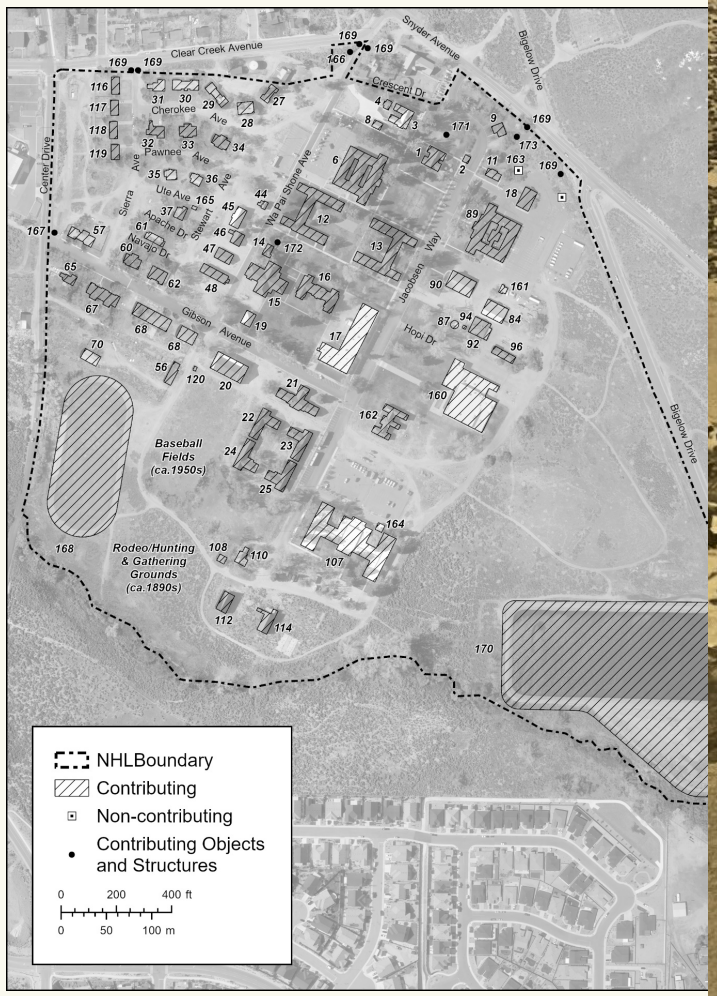


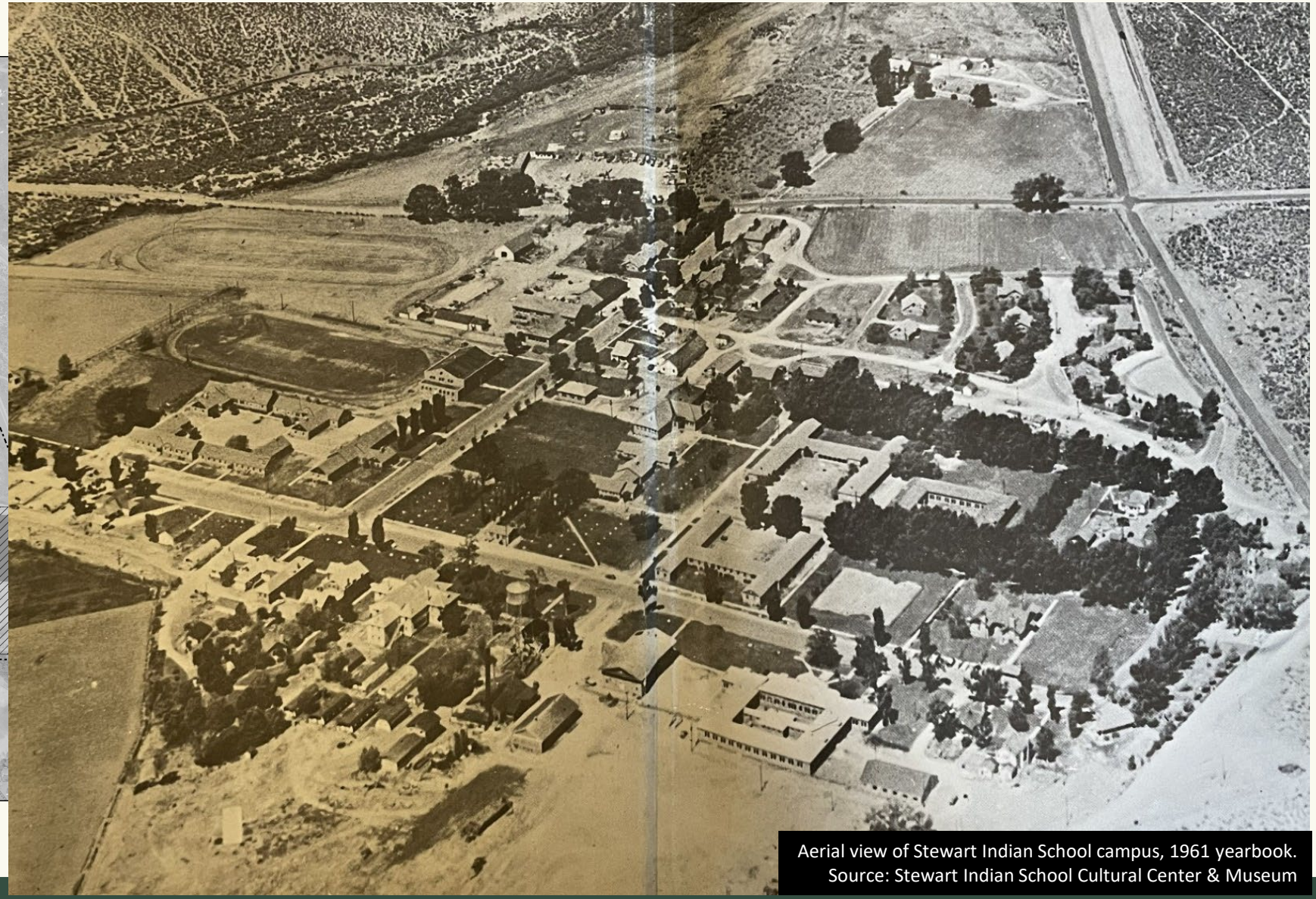
Post Office (built 1925, with Administration Building in background), OSIYO Group Photo 2024



Kitchen and Dining Hall (built 1923, addition 1942), NPS Photo 2026

Stewart Indian Boarding School NHL Nomination





Aerial view of Stewart Indian School campus, 1961 yearbook.
Source: Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

NPS

Discussion/Question & Answer

National Park Service (PEPC) Planning, Environment & Public Comment

PEPC Home | Documents by Park | Policy/Guidance | Park Planning | Search Documents

PROJECT LINKS

- Project Home
- Plan Process
- Meeting Notices
- Links
- Document List
- Open For Comment (2)

A comment period for this project closes **Oct 1, 2026**: **18** Days, **9** Hours, **36** Min.

Plan Process

National Historic Landmarks Program » Indian Boarding Schools NHL Project » Plan Process

The following process outlines the steps the NPS is undertaking to complete the Federal Indian Boarding Schools Nationwide Context Study and the Stewart Indian Boarding School National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination.

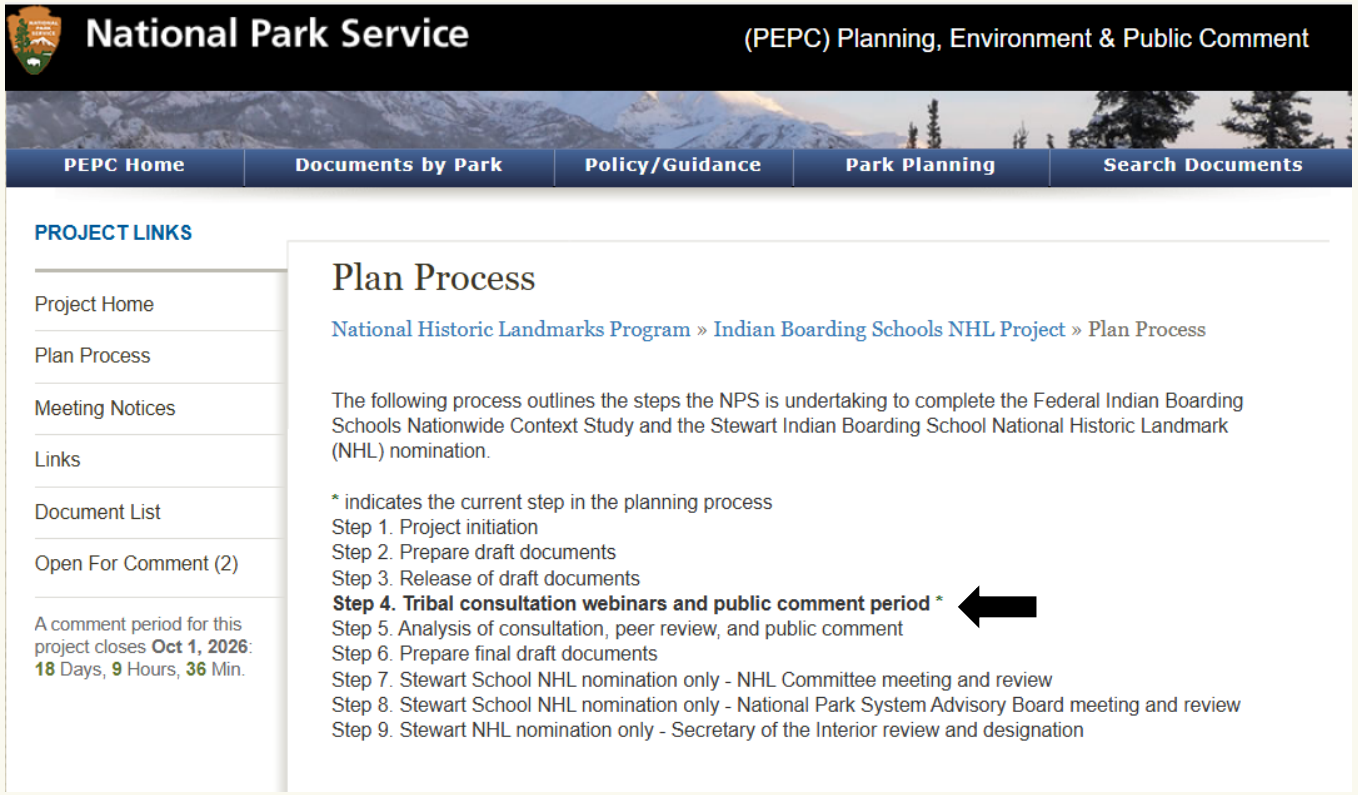
* indicates the current step in the planning process
Step 1. Project initiation
Step 2. Prepare draft documents
Step 3. Release of draft documents
Step 4. Tribal consultation webinars and public comment period *
Step 5. Analysis of consultation, peer review, and public comment
Step 6. Prepare final draft documents
Step 7. Stewart School NHL nomination only - NHL Committee meeting and review
Step 8. Stewart School NHL nomination only - National Park System Advisory Board meeting and review
Step 9. Stewart NHL nomination only - Secretary of the Interior review and designation





Top: Stewart School entrance, NPS Photo 2026
Bottom: Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, OSIYO Group Photo 2024

Thank you


National Park Service
(PEPC) Planning, Environment & Public Comment
PEPC Home
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