

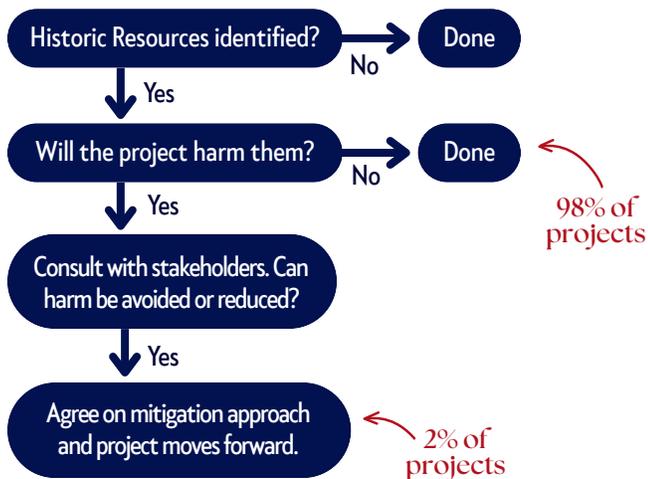
# PERMITTING WITH PURPOSE



For sixty years the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 has balanced history with progress, building infrastructure for the future while considering the impacts on the past.

## HOW SECTION 106 WORKS

If a project uses or requires federal funds, permits, or property and could affect a historic resource – Section 106 requires the federal agency to review and consult with stakeholders to determine impacts and avoid, minimize, or mitigate harm. **Section 106 of NHPA is a consultative process – not a veto – that helps agencies make informed decisions.**



## Ask SUPPORT CONSULTATION AND EFFECTIVE FEDERAL REVIEWS

- Fund SHPOs/THPOs, ACHP, and NPS at levels that reflect workloads
- Invest in technology to improve efficiency and transparency
- Promote the use of programmatic agreements to streamline review
- Ensure professionally qualified staff at federal agencies
- Follow existing laws governing project review

**“Empowering States to be at the center of these undertakings is a critical component, to provide checks and balances on the impacts of federal actions on cultural resources.”**

- Dr. Chris Merritt, Utah SHPO

## CHALLENGES

- Some agencies lack accountability and qualified staff
- Over-reliance on underfunded/understaffed SHPOs and THPOs
- Inadequate and poorly-timed submissions
- Lack of digitized maps, records, and electronic project submission systems

## EARLY COORDINATION SAVES TIME & MONEY

- Identifying historic properties earlier informs project designs and avoids costly mistakes
- Investment in technology will better inform and provide more predictable project design, selection, and delivery

## Case Study | Dion Block

Section 106 consultation as part of a USDA-REAP grant, transformed a simple HVAC replacement into a preservation success. SHPO guidance connected the Dion Block owners with multiple funding programs – including Federal Rehab Tax Credits and state grants – expanding the project’s scope, saving years of piecemeal work, and preserving the building’s historic character. The result: efficient investment, strengthened community heritage, and a 2025 Governor’s Award for Preservation Excellence.



GLENDIVE, MONTANA