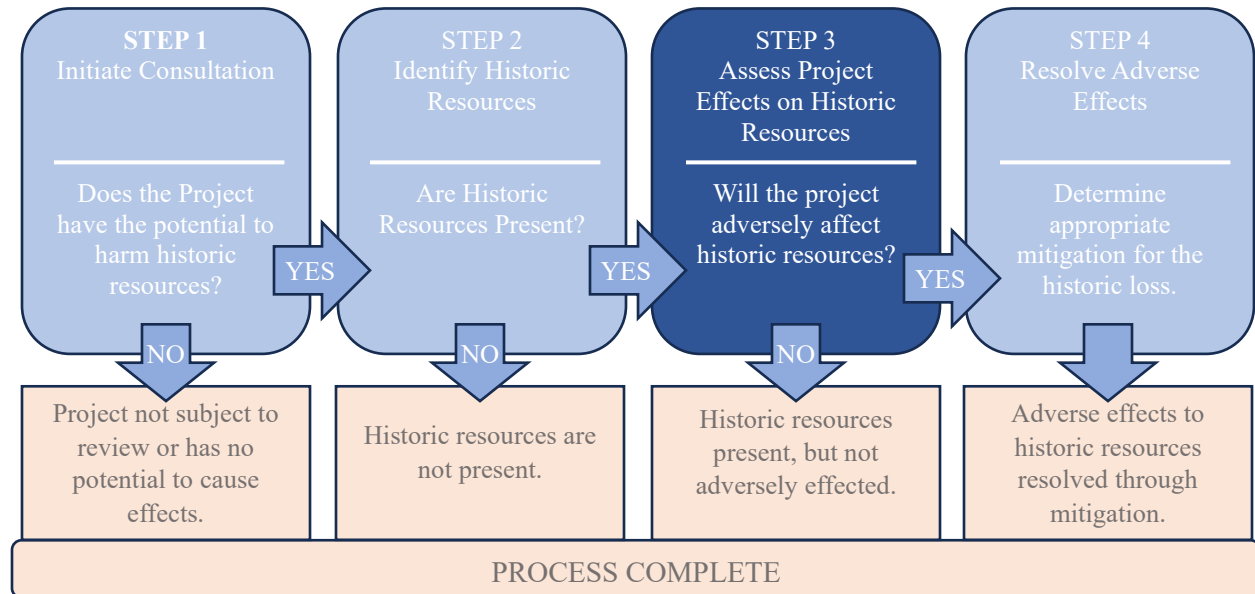


State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Environmental Review Process

Step 3: Assess Project Effects on Historic Resources

The third step of SHPO's Environmental Review process is to Assess the Project Effects on Historic Resources. At this point, it has been determined that historic resources are present within the project area and that the project may impact them.



HOW is the effect evaluated

An evaluation of the project effect on historic resources is done by considering why the resource is significant and how its integrity would be lost or diminished by the project. As stated in Step 2, a historic resource in the regulatory framework must demonstrate significance. This significance often is represented by distinctive characteristics. In completing an Environmental Review, one of the first things SHPO staff looks at is how the project may affect the character defining features of the historic resource. The next item considered by SHPO is if the resource will still be able to convey its significance after the project is completed. The location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of the historic resource are all important aspects of integrity that are evaluated.

Consultation is the process of seeking input and dialogue among the participants to consider project design options that avoid or minimize effects to historic properties. An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic resource that qualify it for significance in a manner that would diminish its integrity.

WHAT are the outcomes

No Adverse Effect: the historic resource still conveys its historic significance

No Adverse Effect with Conditions: the integrity of the historic resource can be retained if certain measures are employed

Adverse Effect: physical destruction, loss of character defining features

The finding of effect is not an evaluation of the project, but of the project's impact on historic resources. The consideration of all the described variables is important to considering the next step of how loss might be mitigated.