

Determinations of Eligibility Tools and Best Practices

OHA/SHPO WORKSHOP APRIL 2025

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• What are DOEs?

• Why do we do DOEs?

• What do we need for DOEs?

• What can we do better?



DOEs

- Determinations of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- Criteria of Evaluation
 - ⊙ 36 CFR 60.4
- Section 106 (306108)
 - 36 CFR 800.4
 - Balance preservation and new development
 - Mandates process
- Keeper of the National Register
 - Final word



What kind of DOE?

DOE

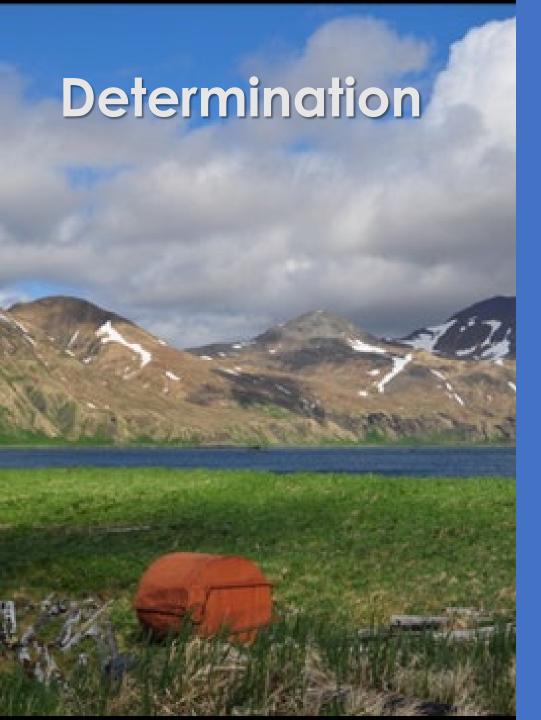
- Formal DOE
- Sent to the Keeper
- Not related to a Section 106 project



Consensus DOE

- ▶ cDOE
- SHPO concurrence
- Identification in connection with a Section 106 project
- Cultural resource management





Define the essential physical features that must be present for a property to represent its significance

Determine whether the essential physical features are visible enough to convey their significance

Determine whether the property needs to be compared with similar properties

Determine which aspects of integrity are particularly vital to the property being nominated and if they are present

Seek SHPO concurrence

How much information is necessary?

Historic Context

Keep the context focused to the period of significance and relevant information identifying key aspects of the of the property.



Maps and Photos

Include current
photographs from multiple
angels with close-ups of
details. Maps should show
location of property in
relation to historic context
and project APE.





Significance and Integrity

Clearly state applicable Criterion, criterion consideration, level of significance, and historic integrity.



Seek Concurrence

Seek the concurrence of the SHPO for determination of eligibility and effect

What do we need to know?

Lay out the story

- Who
- ▶ What
- ▶ Where
- ▶ When
- ▶ Why
- ► How





Tools



- Examples in the NRHP
- National Register Bulletins
- Existing Contexts
- AHRS
 - Reported cultural resources within the State of Alaska
 - Document Repository
 - Best source for DOEs and cDOEs
- Seek Expertise
 - Interviews/Oral History
 - SOI-qualified Professionals
 - Subject area knowledge

Description of the property

What is the story?

Analysis

Themes

Thesis statement

Statement of Significance



Show the Math

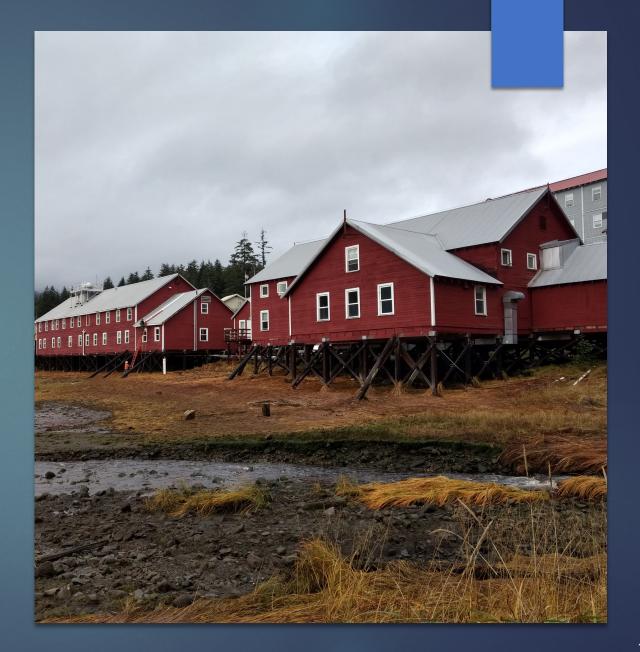
High Integrity ≠ NRHP Eligible Low Integrity ≠ Not NRHP Eligible

- Seven aspects of integrity
 - ▶ Tool in the toolbox



Successful cDOEs

- ► Accurate history, not chronology
- ► Enough information
 - ▶ Balance between treat-as-eligible and dissertation
 - Need essential physical features if no adverse effect
 - ▶ Demonstrate search for information if none found
- ► Context supports determination
- ► Encourage reassessments of old DOEs
 - ▶ Justify why using old documentation if necessary





Q & A