

# Updates on Indian Boarding Schools Nationwide Historic Context & Stewart Indian School National Historic Landmark (NHL) Nomination

**In May 2024, The National Park Service, National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program**, through a cooperative agreement with the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), engaged a cultural resources consultant to support development of a nationwide historic context report on the history of Federal Indian Boarding Schools to inform future NHL nominations and completion of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for the Stewart Indian School in Nevada.

For this project, the OSIYO Group assembled a team of highly qualified, multidisciplinary professionals that includes Nesta Anderson, Ph.D., Marie Archambeault, M.A., Sammye Meadows, and Roni Briggs, OSIYO Group principal. Drawing from their previous collaborations on Tribal consultation projects, Traditional Cultural Properties Surveys, Historic Contexts, NRHP nominations, and working with descendant communities, the OSIYO Group team will be actively seeking valued input from Native nations and Indigenous individuals with direct connections to Indian Boarding Schools across the country as we progress through the project.

Status update:

## Nationwide Historic Context

- Our Nationwide Historic Context begins with an overview of Federal legislation and policy that has impacted Native education, from the Doctrine of Discovery through Traditional Cultural Places.
- This overview provides a framework to understand how the Federal Indian Boarding Schools (FIBS) were established, how the government codified assimilation through education, and how shifting policy affected FIBS students, their families and Native people.
- Within this framework, we provide case studies for FIBS that are listed as National Historic Landmarks, and explain their national significance.
- The first draft of this context has been reviewed by NATHPO and is currently being reviewed by the National Park Service.
- Several additional rounds of review are scheduled along with opportunities for Tribal review and comment.

## Stewart Indian School NHL Nomination

- In August, 2024, the team visited with alumni of Stewart Indian School, documented the buildings at the school, and reviewed archival materials maintained by the cultural center.
- The team has established a tentative boundary for the proposed Stewart Indian School National Historic Landmark, has prepared architectural descriptions for 82 buildings, and prepared historic and current physical descriptions of the school. This has been reviewed by NATHPO and NPS.
- Currently the team is working on writing the history of the Stewart Indian School as it relates to the different legislation and policies described in the context, and providing information on how this affected students, staff, and campus kids whose parents worked and lived at the school, but who were not allowed to attend themselves.

We welcome your continued guidance, suggestions, and comments, and can be reached by the project email:

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