



The Determination of Eligibility Process

The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's inventory of historic places and the national repository of documentation on the variety of historic property types, significance, abundance, condition, ownership, needs, and other information. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation define the scope of the National Register of Historic Places; they identify the range of resources and kinds of significance that will qualify properties for listing in the National Register.

Decisions concerning the significance, historic integrity, documentation, and treatment of properties can be made reliably only when the resource is evaluated within its historic context.

The National Park Service uses the Criteria for Evaluation, historic context, integrity, and Criteria Considerations to review properties under consideration for listing in the National Register. The following information is a brief overview of the review process.

Criteria for the Evaluation of Significance

A property's significance must meet one (or more) of four criteria. The four criteria assess the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Criterion A:

Properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B:

Properties associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C:

Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D:

Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Criterion D typically refers to archeological sites.



Evaluation on Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the National Register criteria, but it also must have integrity. The evaluation of integrity is sometimes a subjective judgment, but it must always be grounded in an understanding of the property's physical features and how they related to its significance. The seven aspects of integrity include: Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling and Association.

Other Important Historic Preservation Terms

Period of Significance is the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for the National Register listing. For Criterion A listings, the Period of Significance corresponds to the time when the event occurred. For Criterion B listings, the Period of Significance is usually the length of time the property was associated with the important person. For Criterion C listings, the Period of Significance is the date of construction or of any significant additions or alterations.

Character Defining Features are those features which define a buildings appearance or style. Character defining features may include common items such as doors, windows, siding type and style or roofing material, but may also include significant details such as stone lintels, quoins or gargoyles. Character defining feature are the features that give a building its appearance and if they are removed or altered, the building looks physically different.