



National Register Workshop

NCSHPO Annual Meeting
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places



Criteria Consideration G



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National Register Criteria Considerations

- n Properties that are NOT eligible for listing unless certain conditions are met.
 - a. Religious properties
 - b. Moved properties
 - c. Birthplaces or graves
 - d. Cemeteries
 - e. Reconstructed properties
 - f. Commemorative properties
 - g. Properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years



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The “Less than 50” rule

A property achieving significance within the last fifty years is eligible if it is of *exceptional* significance



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Why is Criteria Consideration G so challenging?

- n Currently in the midst of period when the 50-year mark falls near the beginning of a dramatically new and different period in architecture
 - Criterion C properties
 - Properties of marginal significance and integrity

- n Our language encourages sloppy thinking
 - “fifty-year rule”



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What does the National Register guidance say?

- n Properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years may be listed if they are of “exceptional importance”
- n “50 year period is an arbitrary span of time, designed as a filter to ensure that enough time has passed to evaluate the property in a historic context.”
- n “not designed to be mechanically applied on a year by year basis”
- n “understanding of history does not advance a year at a time”
- n “ability to evaluate properties moves forward in uneven leaps of years”



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Evaluation

- n Emphasis is on demonstrating that sufficient time has passed to make an informed historical judgment about significance
 - “informed, dispassionate judgment”
 - “adequate perspective for evaluation”
 - “scholarly evaluation”
 - “comparative evaluation”

- n Property should be evaluated in most appropriate context(s)



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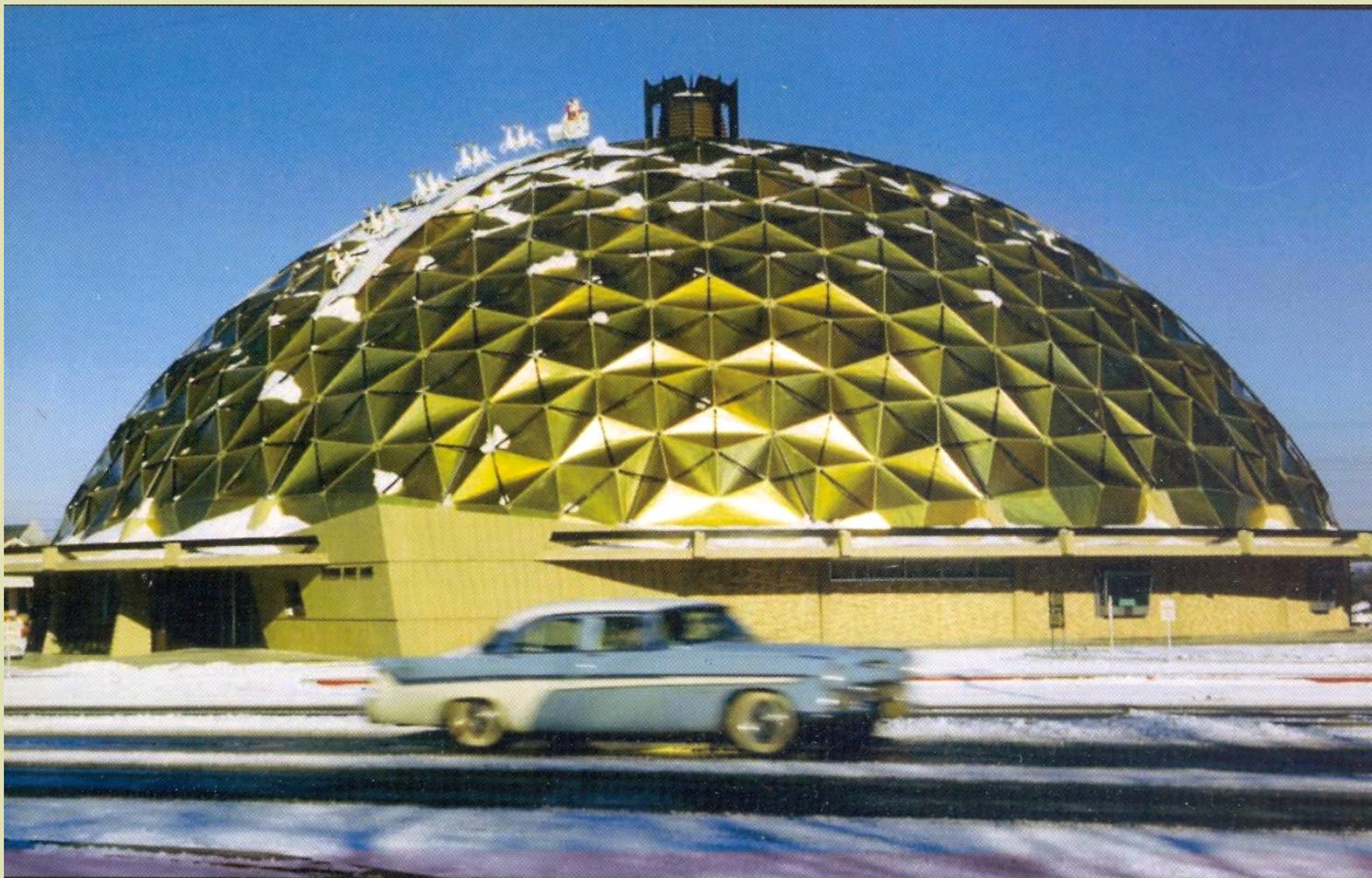
How can Criteria Consideration G be justified?

- n National Register guidance outlines two options
 - Drawing upon scholarly sources
 - Comparative evaluation
- n “Exceptional importance does not necessarily mean national significance; rather, it is a measure of a property’s importance within the appropriate historic context.”
 - Most directly relevant context(s)
 - Local, state, or national significance?
- n Nominations must make a persuasive case that the nominated property is exceptionally significant
 - How was the property or event viewed at the time?
 - How has it been viewed since?



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Example: Oklahoma City's "Gold Dome Bank"





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Citizens State Bank - 1958

- n Contexts investigated included geodesic domes
- n Research led to conclusion that significance was local and related to design trends



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Citizens State Bank - 1958

- n Listed in 2003 at local level
- n Emphasis NOT on geodesic dome per se
- n Trends in bank design
 - Non-traditional
 - Open design
 - New materials
- n Continuing importance as local landmark



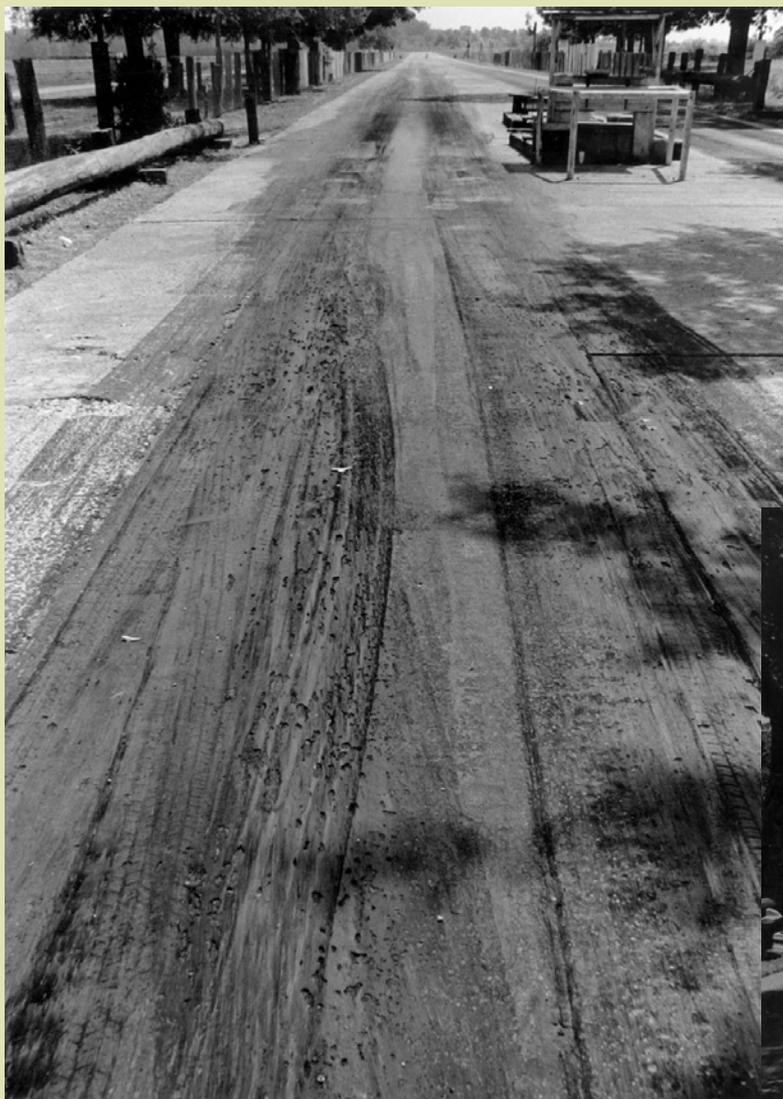
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Example: George Ray's Drag Strip, Paragould, Arkansas

- n Significant statewide under Criterion C – Engineering
- n Constructed in 1961 – purpose built drag strip
- n Supplanted typical use of runways and stretches of road
- n Rare, unaltered survivor of first-generation drag strips
- n Listed in 2006



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Example: Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, Sheffield, Alabama

- n Significant nationally for its role in popular music industry from 1969-1978
- n House band, the Swampers, renowned for versatility, recorded across the spectrum from rock to funk to reggae to country
- n Demonstrates through scholarly and popular investigation the impact of this studio and the house musicians and engineers on the course of popular music.
- n Listed in 2006



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Criteria Consideration G and historic districts

- n Properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years can be eligible for listing if they are an “integral part” of a historic district that qualifies for listing
 - These properties do not have to be individually eligible or of individual exceptional importance

- n Requires explicit justification to show that they qualify as “integral parts”
 - Demonstrated by documenting that the properties date from within the defined period of significance and are associated with one or more of the applicable areas of significance



Criteria Consideration G and historic districts

- n National Register Bulletin “Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places”
 - Guidance not limited to residential suburbs
 - If there is a natural and defensible end of the POS that is just within the 50 year mark, “G” may not need to be justified
 - If there “punctuating event” that marks the end of the POS and that helps define the character of the district, “G” would apply



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Example: Oklahoma College for Women

- n Established in 1911 as state normal school
- n By mid 1920s, expanded to a full 4 year liberal arts university
- n Significant educationally as state-run women's college (one of only seven in the nation – all in the south)
- n Changed to coeducational facility in 1965
- n Natural end of POS in 1965. Events are continuation of significance without being exceptional



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Example: Fayetteville Street HD, Raleigh, NC

- n Commercial district with typical 19th and early 20th century properties
- n Concerted effort to make the city a regional banking center
- n In 1965, new, modernist bank towers clustered at one end of district
- n Defines both physical character and commercial focus of the district



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