National Register of Historic Places



What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts (referred to as "properties" or "places") significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Properties proposed for the National Register may be significant at the local, state, or national level. Nominations to the National Register are reviewed and approved, returned (for corrections), or rejected by National Register Program historians in Washington, D.C., pursuant to authority delegated to them by the Keeper of the National Register.

How does a property get listed on the National Register?

Anyone can propose a property for listing in the National Register. This process typically is initiated by individuals, organizations, local governments, and Native American Tribes, by identifying properties significant to them and preparing the necessary documentation. Federal properties for consideration are typically identified by Federal Preservation Officers (FPOs) who prepare the necessary documentation.

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Documentation includes a property description, history, and significance narrative; maps; and images. The documentation is developed in coordination with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). SHPOs, THPOs, and FPOs are authorized under National Register regulations to submit nominations to the National Register; in the case of SHPO actions, nominations are first reviewed by a state review board. However, in certain situations, National Register regulations allow for a nomination proponent to appeal directly to the Keeper to accept a nomination.

Nominations submitted to the National Register are reviewed by National Register historians who take actions, *e.g.*, approve, request additional information, or return the nomination, on behalf of the Keeper under delegated authority.

What are the benefits and restrictions associated with being listed?

Benefits of listing include formal recognition of the significance of a property in American history; access to federal, state, and nonprofit grants and preservation incentives; assistance with preservation from federal and state agencies; and review of federal or federally-funded, permitted, or licensed projects that might affect a listed or designated property. Listing does not place any restrictions on what an owner may do with their property up to and including demolition.

How do I have a property listed on the National Register?

The process begins with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) for Tribal lands. To find your SHPO or THPO, please visit the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) or the National Association of Tribal Preservation Officers (NATHPO) at the links below.



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