

# The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of historic properties recognized by the federal government as worthy of preservation for their local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Overseen by the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior, the program is part of a national policy to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our cultural and natural resources. The National Register is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

## Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 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; or
- that have yielded or are likely to yield, information important to history or pre-history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for the National Register, unless they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria, or are of exceptional architectural or historical significance.

## What National Register Listing Does

The listing of a building, site, or district on the National Register of Historic Places accords it a certain prestige, which can raise the property owner's and community's awareness and pride.

Income-producing (depreciable) properties which are listed on the National Register individually or as part of a historic district may be aided by federal tax incentives which allow for a 20% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitation.

Listing on the National Register provides a measure of protection from demolition or other negative impact by federally funded or licensed projects, by allowing the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to comment on the effect of such properties.

Listing on the National Register qualifies property owners to apply for federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available (currently no funds are available).

National Register listing is frequently a prerequisite for funding applications for restoration work through various private, non-profit organizations, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or some federal programs.

### **What National Register Listing Does Not Do**

National Register listing does not prevent the owner of a listed property from remodeling, repairing, altering, or even demolishing it, unless federal funds are involved. In the case of a federal project, listing does not provide assurance that the project cannot harm the property; it only assures a review to evaluate ways to mitigate adverse effects.

National Register listing does not obligate an owner to make any repairs or improvements to the property, or to open the property to the public.

If you are interested in nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places, contact the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 567 East Hudson Street, Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030, (614) 298-2000.

The information contained in this summary was drawn from the National Register Fact Sheet prepared by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.