

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

[Find a Park](#)   [Discover History](#)   [Explore Nature](#)   [Working with Communities](#)   [Get Involved](#)   [Teachers](#)   [Kids](#)   [About Us](#)

NATIONAL REGISTER  
LINKS

- [About Us »](#)
- [NR Fundamentals »](#)
- [How to List a Property »](#)
- [Weekly List »](#)
- [Database / Research »](#)
- [Publications »](#)
- [Guidance »](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions »](#)
- [Features / What's New »](#)
- [Sample Nominations »](#)
- [Preservation Links »](#)
- [Contact Us »](#)
- [For Travelers »](#)
- [For Teachers »](#)

Search  **GO»**

[Advanced Search](#)

CONNECT WITH US

- National Register**
- [Facebook](#)
  - [Flickr](#)
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
- [Facebook](#)
  - [iTunes](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
  - [YouTube](#)

## National Register of Historic Places Program: Frequently Asked Questions

*The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.*

### Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the National Register of Historic Places?
  - What are the results of listing?
  - What are the restrictions, rules, and regulations for historic property owners?**
  - Can I modify, remodel, or renovate, my historic house?
  - How do I apply for grant money or tax credits?
  - How do I get a plaque?
  - How do I get a copy of the file you have on a property?
  - How is a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places?
  - How can I update information for a property that is already listed?
  - I am pretty sure that a property is listed, but I cannot find it in your database, why is that?
  - How do I contact you, what is your address?
  - How old does a property have to be to qualify for listing?
  - I want to know if a property is listed, how can I do that?
  - I am a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, what can you do for me?
  - I want to use the photographs in your files, is it copyrighted?
- 
- What are the definitions of some of the terms and acronyms you use?
  - What is the difference between a National Park, a National Monument, a National Memorial, a National Historical Park, etc?
  - What is the preferred method of citation for a National Register of Historic Places nomination file?
  - These FAQs never answer my question, I still have a question

**What is the National Register of Historic Places?**

The National Park Service administers the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state, or the nation. Nominations for listing historic properties come from State Historic Preservation Officers, from Federal Preservation Officers for properties owned or controlled by the United States Government, and from Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for properties on Tribal lands. Private individuals and organizations, local governments, and American Indian tribes often initiate this process and prepare the necessary documentation. A professional review board in each state considers each property proposed for listing and makes a recommendation on its eligibility. National Historic Landmarks are a separate designation, but upon designation, NHLs are listed in the National Register of Historic Places if not already listed. You can find more information in our About Us section. You can find more information on the National Historic Landmarks program at their website.

**What are the results of listing?**

In addition to honorific recognition, listing in the National Register has the following results for historic properties:

Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally assisted projects: -- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register. The Advisory Council oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal Planning process.

Eligibility for certain tax provisions -- Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings. This credit can be combined with a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 31.5 years for nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount of the tax credit claimed. Federal tax

