

National Register Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of significant historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts. Resources listed in the National Register meet criteria defined by the National Park Service. These resources have local, state, or national significance in areas such as:

- History
- Architecture/Engineering
- Archaeology
- Significant Persons
- Culture

The National Park Service coordinates the National Register program. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

What are the benefits of listing?

Listing in the National Register is primarily honorary in nature. Once they have successfully moved through the approval process, nominations of non-restricted properties are posted on the State Historic Preservation Office's [website](#) for informational and educational purposes. Additionally, listing carries the following benefits:

Consideration in planning for federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects; Eligibility for the [Federal Tax Incentive program](#) when rehabilitating the property as income-producing; Eligibility for the [State Historic Tax Credit program](#) when rehabilitating the property as income-producing or as an owner-occupied residence; Eligibility for federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures; Qualification for consideration with certain [historic preservation grant programs](#).

How does listing affect my property rights? Can changes be made to properties listed in the National Register?

The National Register program is an honorary list that places no restrictions on private property owners, provided that there is no federal assistance that could impact the property (such as funding, licensing, or permitting), or that the property owner is utilizing state or federal tax credits for rehabilitation. However, local municipalities may have their own ordinances regarding historic properties. Please inquire with local municipalities for information about restrictions on historic resources. Assuming that no federal involvement, restrictive covenant/easement, or local ordinance is in effect, a property owner may make changes to their property, up to and including demolition, as they see fit and within the framework of the law.

How do I get a plaque or a sign for my listed property?

Neither the State Historic Preservation Office nor the National Park Service provides plaques for listed properties. The National Park Service's National Register website currently provides a [list](#) of plaque manufacturers.

I want to maintain the historic character of my property. Is there guidance?

Yes. The National Park Service offers Preservation Briefs that provides [guidance](#) on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings.

Will National Register listing impact my insurance?

It shouldn't. As noted above, National Register listing does not impact a property owner's rights. Insurance companies are not required to replace historic materials in-kind.

Will National Register listing protect my property?

The National Register can help bring attention to a property's historic significance, but listing does not itself place restrictions on what can be done to that property, up to and including demolition. Because National Register listing does not generally protect properties from alterations or demolition, unrelated legal tools, such as deed covenants or preservation easements will sometimes be independently applied to a property. Consult qualified legal counsel for details concerning protective covenants and easements.

What if I object to the listing of my property in the National Register?

Private property owners may comment on and/or object to proposed nominations of their property to the National Register of Historic Places. A historic district cannot be listed if a majority of private property owners officially object. If less than a majority of private property owners object, their objection will be recorded, and their property will be included in the historic district. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion owned.

To officially object, submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a [notarized](#) statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the property and objects to the proposed listing. Alternatively, an objection may be sent without notarization if it includes the following statement: "I declare [or certify, verify, or state] under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on [date]. [Printed Name][Signature]". Objections must be submitted to the Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 before the date of the Missouri Advisory Council meeting at which the property is to be reviewed.

There is no objection process for properties already listed on the National Register. The de-listing process is outlined in [36 CFR 60.15](#) regulations.

I still have a question.

For further assistance, please call our main line and ask to speak to National Register staff at 573-751-7858 or email moshpo@dnr.mo.gov.