



National Register of Historic Places Commonly Asked Questions

Why am I getting this letter?

Any time a property or district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, a notification letter is sent, per federal regulations, to all owners of all properties within the nomination boundary.

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 that have local, state, or national significance in areas such as history, culture, architecture, and archaeology. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/faqs.htm>

How does listing affect my property rights?

The National Register program is an honorary list that places no restrictions on private property owners, provided there is no federal assistance that could impact the property (such as grants, licensing/permitting, state or federal tax credits for rehabilitation). Local municipalities, however, may have their own ordinances regarding locally designated historic properties. Please contact your local municipality for more information.

I don't think my property is historic. Why is it within a National Register historic district?

Since boundaries are drawn to be contiguous, National Register historic districts commonly contain both older and newer properties and even vacant lots. All properties within a National Register historic district are defined as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district. To be considered "contributing," the property must relate to the historic context of the district and retain its historic character. To learn more about how properties are evaluated for the National Register, please visit the National Park Service's website at: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf

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

Private property owners may comment on and/or object to the proposed nomination 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. Notarized objections must be submitted before the date of the State Board of Review meeting at which the property is to be reviewed (see cover letter), and sent to:

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Do I have to attend the State Board of Review meeting?

All State Board of Review meetings are open to the public and property owners are welcome to attend. However, attendance is not required.

Where can I find information about the meeting?

Information regarding State Board of Review meetings and deadlines, links to draft National Register nominations to be considered for the upcoming meeting is available at the Texas Historical Commission website:

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting>

Please note, some archaeological nominations may contain privileged or restricted information, and if so, the full draft nomination **will not** be available online. The location of archeological sites is not public information. When available, THC will post redacted nominations for the general public. However, upon request, the restricted draft nomination may be disclosed to property owners and qualified professionals.

What are the benefits of listing?

- Formal documentation and recognition of a property's significance to Texas history
- Encouraging preservation of our state's historic resources
- Financial incentives, such as federal and state investment tax credits
 - Owners of National Register listed properties used for income-producing purposes are eligible to apply for federal tax credits equal to 20% of qualified rehabilitation expenses
 - In Texas, Income-producing, nonprofit, and public university systems properties are eligible to apply for state tax credits equal to 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenses
- Preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation when funds are available
- Consideration of a historic property to minimize adverse effects due to federal projects (for example, highway construction using federal funding, permitting or licensing)

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/preservation-tax-incentives/tax-credit-programs-faq>

I still have a question.

For further assistance, contact Judy George-Garza, at 512-463-8452.