



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FACT SHEET

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. It is an honorary designation intended to recognize and communicate how a place is associated with our history and what physical characteristics remain that represent that history. National Register designation does not result in restrictions on how an owner may use or improve their property.

Places that are eligible for National Register listing possess historic integrity (or authenticity) and meet one or more of the following categories:

- A. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. 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 distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. The place has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (archaeological significance).

Properties that are less than 50 years of age, commemorative, or moved or reconstructed buildings are generally not eligible for National Register listing unless exceptional significance can be shown.

The National Register DOES:

1. Identify significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts.
2. Encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance and by lending support to local preservation activities.
3. Enable federal, state, and local agencies to consider historic properties in the early stages of planning projects.
4. Provide for review of federally funded, licensed, or sponsored projects which may affect historic properties.
5. Make qualified owners of historic properties eligible for federal and state grants for preservation activities.
6. Encourage the rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties through tax incentives.
7. Provide eligibility for the CT Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit program for owner-occupied historic homes.
8. Provide protection from unreasonable destruction under Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22a-19a.
9. Allow consideration of fire and life safety code compliance alternatives when rehabilitating historic buildings.

The National Register DOES NOT:

1. Restrict the rights of private property owners in the use, development, or sale of private historic property.
2. Require that properties be maintained, repaired or restored.
3. Automatically lead to historic district zoning or local landmark designation.
4. Force federal, state, local or private projects to be stopped.
5. Provide for review of local or *privately* funded projects which may affect historic properties.
6. Guarantee that grant funds will be available for all historic properties or projects.
7. Provide federal tax credits to owners of residential historic properties, unless those properties are rental and treated as income-producing by the IRS.
8. Provide a marker plaque for registered properties (owners may purchase a plaque from the SHPO).