

The following are the most frequently asked National Register questions. The answers are brief and are intended to address a wide range of questions. You may direct more specific questions to the State Historic Preservation Office.

NATIONAL REGISTER GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to me to have my property listed in the National Register?

It means that your property has been documented and evaluated according to federal standards and listed in the National Register because it is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

When my property is listed in the National Register, is it preserved forever?

Listing a property gives it recognition and may change the way people or communities view historic properties. The National Register is sometimes criticized because it does not bring greater protection. Listing does not interfere with an owner's right to alter or dispose of their property if they use their own money.

The Preservation Office encourages owners of historic properties to contact the office if they have questions about changes they are thinking of making to their property. Staff would like to work with them so that the changes respect the historic character of the property.

Does listing in the National Register protect my property during Federal or State projects?

Projects undertaken, funded, licensed, or permitted by Federal agencies are reviewed by the Preservation Office to determine if they will affect properties which are listed in the National Register or eligible for listing in the National Register. The Preservation Office also reviews projects undertaken, funded or licensed by State departments and agencies which may affect a property which is listed in the National Register. It is the responsibility of the Federal or State agencies to notify the Preservation Office of proposed projects. Ways are then discussed to protect the property or mitigate the effects of the project.

Is additional maintenance required once a property is listed in the National Register?

No. The property owner may maintain the property as they choose following local requirements.

Am I required to open my property to the public when it is listed in the National Register?

No

CHANGES TO NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES:

Are covenants put on the deed when the property is listed in the National Register?

No

Can I request to have my property removed from the National Register?

Properties are removed from the National Register only if they lose the qualities they had at the time of listing. Properties have been removed if they have been destroyed by fire or storms, or have been substantially altered. Properties are automatically removed from the Register if they have been moved.

Can I demolish my property if it's listed in the National Register?

Yes, however, the rules of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) require the responsible governmental unit (RGU) to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) before a property, which is listed in the National Register, is demolished, in whole or in part. For further information contact the EQB at 651-201-2477 or online at www.eqb.state.mn.us.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND FINANCES:

Can my property be sold? Can it be given to my heirs?

Yes. It is not required that the Preservation Office be notified when National Register property is sold, purchased, or inherited.

Are my property taxes reduced if my property is listed in the National Register?

There is no property tax relief for National Register properties in Minnesota. While some states have such programs, Minnesota does not.

Do I get a tax credit if I fix up my property?

A property owner can apply for a 20% tax credit on their federal income tax if they rehabilitate a property, which is listed in the National Register and is income producing (commercial or rental). It is required that the rehabilitation follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Contact the Preservation Office for more information. Rehabilitation of a private, owner occupied residence does not qualify for tax credits. Information on the federal tax credit is available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax>.

The Minnesota Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit offers a 20% state tax credit for qualified historic rehabilitations, and must be used in conjunction with the existing federal rehabilitation tax credit. Information on the state tax credit is available online at: <https://mn.gov/admin/shpo/incentives/state/>.

Am I automatically entitled to grants if my property is listed?

Federal grants are currently unavailable. If federal funding levels increase, and grants are once again available, only National Register listed properties will be eligible to apply.

Non-profit organizations and local units of government can apply for State Grants. Here again, properties must be listed in the National Register to be eligible. Information on state Grants is available at: <http://www.mnhs.org/preservation/grants/>. Sometimes grants can be available at the local level. It is important to check with your local housing assistance programs to inquire if funds are available.

Are low interest loans or mortgages available if my property is listed?

The Preservation Office does not manage a low interest loan or mortgage program. It is important to check with local housing assistance programs or financial institutions to determine if low interest financial assistance is available.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND GOVERNMENT:

If a property or a historic district is listed in the National Register, does this require the local government in which the property or district is located to form a Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)?

No. The decision to create an ordinance which would establish a preservation commission rests entirely with the local government and its residents.

If my property is listed in the Register are there provisions in building codes which affect my property?

A property listed in the National Register is not exempt from state and local building codes. The local building inspector may allow some variance for significant historic building features that do not meet modern building codes provided the features do not pose a health or safety hazard. Interpretation is at the discretion of the local building official.

How does the American with Disabilities Act affect National Register properties?

If a National Register property is open to the public, ADA calls for the building to meet basic levels of accessibility for people with disabilities. While the law requires the removal of certain barriers, it does have special provisions for historic structures where changes would destroy a building's significant historic features.

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