WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL AND NEW JERSEY REGISTERS?

National Register of Historic Places

The first National Register for historic properties was begun by Congress in 1935 with the passage of the Historic Sites Act. This act directed the Secretary of the Interior to designate properties of national importance as National Historic Landmarks. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the National Register of Historic Places as the official list of national historic resources worthy of preservation. This act expanded the National Register to include buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts of statewide and local significance.

Being listed on the National Register includes the following benefits:

- Public recognition of a property’s historical, architectural or archeological significance
- Eligibility for federal investment tax credits for the rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties
- A measure of protection from potentially harmful Federal agency projects or undertakings

New Jersey Register of Historic Places

A 1970 state law established the New Jersey Register of Historic Places as the State’s official list of historic resources worthy of preservation. Modeled upon the National Register program, the New Jersey Register uses the same criteria, the same application forms, the same review process, and the same State Review Board consideration.

Being listed on the New Jersey Register does include the following benefits:

- Public recognition of a property’s historical, architectural, or archeological significance
- Eligibility to apply for rehabilitation or restoration grants or loans from the New Jersey Historic Trust (if the property is owned by county or local government or by a non-profit corporation)
- Protective review of state, county, or municipal projects that might “encroach upon, damage, or destroy” a listed property

Being listed on the New Jersey Register does not:

- Place restrictions on private property owners;
- Affect local decisions of municipal historic preservation commissions or change local planning board or board of adjustment decisions

For further information on The National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places contact Bob Craig at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office - 609.984.0541 / bcraig@dep.state.nj.us

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Call or email the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to ask whether the property in question is already listed in the registers, is included within a listed historic district, or has been found eligible for listing by the HPO.

If YES

Request a preliminary application packet from the HPO.

Return the questionnaire from the preliminary application packet with the required documentary materials.

The HPO reviews this material and evaluates whether the property is likely to meet the National Register criteria for eligibility. If approved:

Prepare a complete registration application

The application is considered by the HPO staff

When the application is complete and sufficient, the HPO schedules the application for consideration by the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites (State Review Board).

The State Review Board may recommend:

Approval of the application as written

Approval with conditions

Rejecting the application

If the application is tabled or conditionally approved, the preparer is responsible for ensuring that the Board’s requirements are addressed before the application can be processed further.

If the State Board recommends approval, but the HPO does not sign the application, you may appeal directly to the Keeper of the National Register.

The signature from the HPO recommends to the National Park Service that the property be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The HPO transmits it to the National Park Service (NPS).

The National Register of Historic Places staff in the NPS receives the nomination, then reviews it during which time it also notifies Federal agencies of the pending nomination.

If the review is unfavorable, the nomination is returned to the HPO. The HPO then considers the reasons for the return from NPS, and determines whether the causes of the return are to be addressed by HPO or by the preparer. If needed, the HPO returns the application to NPS for further action or final approval.

If this review is favorable, the Keeper of the National Register adds the property to the National Register.

State Review Board meets 3 or 4 times a year. 30 day public notification period is required before their meetings.

Approval with conditions

The board rejects applications if the resource does not appear eligible. For information on appealing this decision call the HPO