

The National Register of Historic Places:

RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The *National Register of Historic Places*, a federal designation, is the cumulative listing of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts nationally recognized for their significance and worthy of preservation. Properties are nominated by each state's historic preservation office, and a comprehensive national list is maintained by the United States Department of the Interior. Listing on the National Register helps preserve properties by providing recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance. Identifying properties as historic and significant insures that they will be taken into account in all state and federally assisted projects; it also lends importance, without regulation, to consideration of their use in privately funded projects.

In the State of Georgia, properties are listed in the National Register through the Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division (HPD). Nominations are reviewed by the HPD, and if approved, by the Georgia National Register Review Board. Approved nominations are submitted to the U.S. Department of Interior for final review and approval, and listing in the National Register. The HPD and AUDC invite National Register proposals from the public and welcome an opportunity to assist in advising on the nomination. Individuals, organizations, or agencies requesting National Register listing carry out much of the necessary research themselves, according to state and federal guidelines.

It is important, however, to note what listing in the National Register does and does not do. Listing in the National Register helps preserve historic properties. It provides recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance, and in so doing, it identifies properties for planning purposes. It is not, though, the same as a local City of Atlanta Landmark, Historic, or Conservation designation.

For more information about the National Register, or to obtain application materials for listing a property in the National Register, contact the Historic Preservation Division at 404-656-2840, or the AUDC at 404-330-6200 or at our email address.

***Text and format adapted by the AUDC from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's "Preservation Fact Sheet: The National Register of Historic Places; Recognizing and Preserving Our Historic Properties", compiled February, 1997.**

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must meet the *National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. These criteria require that a property be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and that it still look much the way it was in the past. In addition, the property must:

-  be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; or
-  be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or
-  be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or
-  have the potential to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

Certain kinds of properties, such as moved or reconstructed buildings, are generally not eligible for National Register listing; exceptions are made if these properties meet special criteria.

The National Register Does. . .	The National Register Does Not. . .
Identify significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts according to the National Register criteria	Provide a marker or plaque for registered properties (property owners may obtain markers or plaques at their own expense.)
Encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance	Restrict the rights of private property owners or require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored
Provide information about historic properties for local planning purposes	Automatically invoke a City of Atlanta historic zoning designation
Facilitate the review of federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects to determine their effects on historic properties	Stop federally assisted government projects
Assist state government agencies in determining whether their projects will affect historic properties	Stop state assisted development projects
Make owners of historic properties eligible to apply for federal grants for historic preservation projects	Guarantee that grant funds will be available for all properties or projects
Provide federal and state tax benefits to owners of taxable historic properties if they rehabilitate their properties according to preservation standards	Require property owners to follow preservation standards when working on their properties, unless they wish to qualify for tax benefits
Insure that listed properties are considered in decisions to issue surface mining permits	Automatically stop the permitting of surface mining activities
Allow consideration of fire and life safety code compliance alternatives when rehabilitating historic buildings	Mandate that special consideration be given to compliance with life safety and fire codes
List properties only if they meet the National Register criteria for evaluation	List individual properties if the owner objects or districts if a majority of property owners object

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