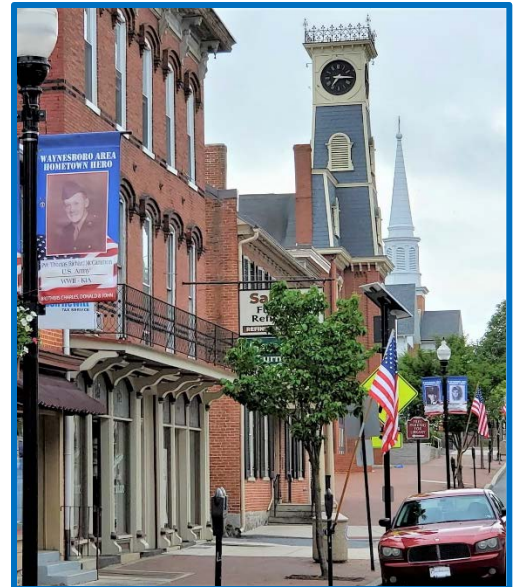


What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of properties that are recognized for their significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and/or culture. National Register properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects and they can be significant to a local community, a state, a Native American tribe, or the nation as a whole.

The National Register of Historic Places program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is administered by the National Park Service. In Pennsylvania, the National Register program is managed by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO), which is a bureau within the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).



What are the benefits of being listed in the National Register?

Listing in the National Register contributes to the preservation of historic properties in a number of ways. Often, it can change the way communities perceive their historic resources and gives credibility to efforts to preserve these irreplaceable resources. National Register listing provides:

- Recognition that a property is significant to the nation, the state, or the local community;
- Eligibility for federal tax incentives for income-producing buildings;
- State and federal preservation grants, when available, for planning and rehabilitation of buildings owned by not-for-profit organizations and local governments;
- Consideration in the planning for state and federal projects or projects that are assisted by state or federal agencies.

National Register listing does not place obligations on private property owners, nor does it place restrictions on the use, treatment, or disposition of private property. National Register listing does not lead to public acquisition of property, nor does it require public access to property.

National Register Facts

As of April 2021, there are:

- Over 3,300 properties *in Pennsylvania* listed in the National Register
- Over 9,000 properties *in Pennsylvania* eligible for listing in the National Register

Throughout the United States:

- The more than 80,000 properties (including districts) listed in the National Register represent 1.4 million individual historic resources.
- Almost every county in the United States has at least one place listed in the National Register

What does it mean to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places?

There are many misconceptions about what it means to property owners if their buildings are listed in the National Register. For property owners in historic districts, there can be additional confusion about being in a local historic district, which may have special zoning or ordinances for existing buildings, and a National Register historic district, which has no such requirements.

The National Register Does...

- honor a historic property by recognizing its importance to its local community, state, or the nation;
- encourage the preservation of historic properties by documenting their significance;
- list properties only if they meet the National Register criteria for evaluation;
- facilitate the SHPO review of state or federally funded or permitted projects to determine their effects on historic properties;
- provide an opportunity for the SHPO to consult with government agencies to mitigate projects that will adversely affect historic properties;
- provide information about historic resources for local, state, and federal planning purposes;
- offer federal tax benefits to owners of income-producing historic properties if they rehabilitate their properties according to preservation standards.

The National Register Does Not...

- restrict the rights of property owners or require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored;
- prevent a property's destruction by federal, state, local, or private development;
- guarantee that grant funds will be available for projects;
- require property owners to follow preservation standards unless they wish to qualify for tax benefits;
- require property owners to allow public access to their property;
- automatically invoke local historic district zoning or landmark designation;
- qualify a property for a Pennsylvania Historical Marker;
- list individual properties if the owner objects, or list a historic district if the majority of property owners object;
- provide a plaque for registered properties, although property owners may obtain plaques at their own expense.

For more information, please visit the National Park Service website at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/faqs.htm> or contact PA SHPO staff at www.phmc.pa.gov/preservation/about.