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## National Register of Historic Places Commonly Asked Questions

### Why did I receive this notification?

Any time a property or district is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, owners of property within the boundary are notified by individual letter or through a public notice published in a general circulation newspaper.

### What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of significant historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts. Resources listed in the National Register meet criteria defined by the National Park Service that have local, state, or national significance in areas such as history, culture, architecture, and archaeology. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/faqs.htm>

### How does listing affect my property rights?

The National Register program is an honorary list that places no restrictions on private property owners, provided there is no federal assistance that could impact the property (such as grants, licensing/permitting, state or federal tax credits for rehabilitation). Local municipalities, however, may have their own ordinances regarding locally designated historic properties. Please contact your local municipality for more information.

### I don't think my property is historic. Why is it within a National Register historic district?

Since boundaries are drawn to be contiguous, National Register historic districts commonly contain both older and newer properties and even vacant lots. All properties within a National Register historic district are defined as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district. To be considered "contributing," the property must relate to the historic context of the district and retain its historic character. To learn more about how properties are evaluated for the National Register, please visit the National Park Service's website at: [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15\\_web508.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf)

### What if I object to the listing of my property in the National Register?

Private property owners may comment on and/or object to the proposed nomination of their property to the National Register of Historic Places. A historic district cannot be listed if a majority of private property owners officially object. If less than a majority of private property owners object, all objections will be recorded and the historic district will be nominated in its entirety. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion owned. To officially object, submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a statement (notarized or in compliance with USC 28 U.S. Code § 1746; see below for details) certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the property and objects to the proposed listing. Such objections should be submitted before the date of the State Board of Review meeting at which the property is to be reviewed (see cover letter), and sent to:

Joseph Bell  
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

## Must my objection letter be notarized?

Owner objections to listing must be either notarized or comply with 28 U.S. Code § 1746 (Unsworn Declarations Under Penalty of Perjury). A non-notarized letter of objection must include one of the following statements:

- If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths:  
“I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.  
Executed on (date).  
(Signature).”
- If NOT executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths:  
“I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date).  
(Signature).”

## Do I have to attend the State Board of Review meeting?

All State Board of Review meetings are open to the public and property owners are welcome to attend. However, attendance is not required.

## Where can I find information about the meeting?

Information regarding State Board of Review meetings and deadlines, links to draft National Register nominations to be considered for the upcoming meeting is available at the Texas Historical Commission website:

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/sbrmeeting>

Please note, some archaeological nominations may contain privileged or restricted information, and if so, the full draft nomination **will not** be available online. The location of archeological sites is not public information. When available, THC will post redacted nominations for the general public. However, upon request, the restricted draft nomination may be disclosed to property owners and qualified professionals.

## What are the benefits of listing?

- Formal documentation and recognition of a property’s significance to Texas history
- Encouraging preservation of our state’s historic resources
- Financial incentives, such as federal and state investment tax credits for buildings that are individually listed or contribute to a listed district.
- Preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation when funds are available
- Consideration of a historic property to minimize adverse effects due to federal projects (for example, highway construction using federal funding, permitting or licensing)

For more information about tax credits, please visit:

<http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/preservation-tax-incentives/tax-credit-programs-faq>

## What if I still have a question?

For further assistance, send a message to: [nr@thc.texas.gov](mailto:nr@thc.texas.gov).