

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. The records are maintained in Washington, D.C. by the National Park Service. Over 2,000 properties located in all 36 counties of Oregon are listed in the National Register. Oregon listings presently include over 115 historic districts.

What is the State Historic Preservation Office?

Each U.S. state, territory, and freely associated state has a designated State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In Oregon, the SHPO operates within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

What is the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation?

The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) is a nine-member, governor-appointed body responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on all nominations to the National Register. Academic disciplines represented by SHPO staff and the SACHP include history, archaeology, architecture, architectural history, and Native



Hayden Bridge, Benton County

How are properties listed in the National Register?

Properties are listed in the National Register through a public nomination process. The property owner often initiates a nomination. Any individual, local historical society, other community group, or even the state of Oregon, however, may prepare a nomination. The first step is to submit a completed Historic Resource Record (HRR) form, available on our National Register webpage, to SHPO staff. Staff will return a preliminary eligibility recommendation and, if the property appears eligible, share any resources such as survey records or Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) forms that relate to the property.

The next step is completion of the nomination form, which describes the property in detail and documents

its significance. The property owner decides whether to prepare the form independently or engage a consultant to conduct the research and assemble the materials required to complete the form. More than half of applicants conduct their own research and prepare their own nomination forms.

When a technically complete nomination form is received by the SHPO, it is placed on the calendar for review by the SACHP during one of three public meetings held each year. The SACHP decides whether the property proposed for nomination meets the National Register criteria and makes its recommendations to the SHPO accordingly. If recommended by the SACHP and the SHPO, the form is submitted to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, who is the National Park Service official responsible for deciding whether to accept the nomination and list the property in the National Register. The majority of nominations are accepted for listing. Sometimes a nomination is returned for correction and then resubmitted to the Keeper.



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*Emil and Otilie Wienecke House,
Deschutes County*

What are the benefits of listing a property in the National Register?

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places honors a property and recognizes its importance to the community, the state, or the nation. It can also qualify a property to receive waivers for certain code requirements.

In some cases, there may be financial benefits, as well. Owners of listed properties may apply for Preserving Oregon grants to support rehabilitation work. The SHPO also administers a federal tax credit program that can save building owners 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating their listed income-producing building. Additionally, Oregon offers a Special Assessment of Historic Property Program that specially assesses a property's assessed value for 10 years. It is most effective when the program is in place prior to any substantial rehabilitation of the property.

Are private properties listed in the National Register subject to restrictions and regulations?

Owners of properties listed in the National Register choosing to take advantage of federal and/or state tax

benefits and grant programs must comply with rehabilitation standards outlined by the Secretary of the Interior. Oregon State law also requires local governments to review proposals to demolish or relocate properties listed in the National Register. Local governments have the authority to form local historic districts and landmarks and may create additional protections for properties listed in the National Register through a separate local process.

To find out more about how your local government may regulate National Register listed properties, contact your local planning office.

Listing a property in the National Register does not prevent the owner from selling the property or adapting it to a compatible new use. In making changes to a listed property, owners are advised though not required to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Can an owner remove their property from the National Register?

Listed properties can be removed from the Register only under specific circumstances: If the decision regarding eligibility for listing was made in error or based on information subsequently proven incorrect; if a procedural error was made in the nomination process; or if the qualities that made the property eligible for listing in the National Register no longer exist.

The process of petitioning for removal from the National Register involves preparing an application similar to the initial nomination, as well as review by the SACHP, the

SHPO, and the Keeper of the National Register. The Keeper ultimately decides whether to accept a petition for removal.

Can a property be listed without permission of the owner?

PRIVATE PROPERTY:

A property in private ownership that is proposed for nomination as an individual listing in the National Register cannot be listed if an owner with fee simple absolute or fee simple defeasible estate title to real property formally objects to the listing. If a historic district is being proposed for nomination, the district cannot be listed if the majority of owners with fee simple absolute or fee simple defeasible estate title to real property within the boundary of the proposed district object to the listing.

PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY:

Although the Keeper of the National Register will take the agency's comments into consideration, a public owner's objection does not preclude the listing of a property in public ownership.

What determines whether a property qualifies for listing in the National Register?

The National Park Service provides excellent guidance on applying the National Register criteria for evaluation. While there can be exceptions, properties likely to meet the criteria of the National Register are at least 50 years old, remain in their original locations, and maintain



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much of their original design and material. A property may be important for its association with persons, events, or broad patterns in local, state, or national history; as a well preserved and distinctive example of an architectural or engineering type or style; or, in the case of archaeological sites, because it has the potential to yield significant information in American history.

How difficult is it to prepare a National Register nomination?

The process for an individual listing takes approximately one year from start to finish and requires between 100 and 150 hours to complete the nomination form. If the property is a historic district or a complex of several buildings, it will likely take longer. If you are interested in nominating a historic district, please review Heritage Bulletin #6 and contact SHPO staff to discuss the process and timeline.

One should expect to spend between 100 and 150 hours preparing a nomination for an individual property.

If the property aligns with an existing Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form, preparation time may be less since the MPD provides contextual history and registration requirements that can be referenced in the nomination. Preparing a new MPD, depending upon the complexity and geographic range, is likely to take more time to prepare than an

individual nomination. However, the work to establish a historic context and clear registration requirements for properties associated with the MPD should make preparation of subsequent nominations more efficient. Connect with SHPO staff before undertaking a new MPD.

The bulk of the nomination form is divided into two sections: a description of the property, and a discussion of why it is significant.

Appendices include maps, floor plans, and photographs. The key to preparing a successful nomination is staying focused on the applicable significance criteria and demonstrating how the property meets those criteria.

What resources are available to help prepare a National Register nomination?

There are a number of technical resources available, including National Park Service publications and the Preparing National Register Nominations in Oregon guide. SHPO staff may also be able to provide resources specific to the property being nominated, such as survey records or relevant Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) forms. An MPD is a cover document that can be used to evaluate the National Register eligibility of properties that are related by a common theme, trend, or pattern of history. It is used as a source of information for a nomination's historic context, and also as a guide for justifying a property's eligibility under the registration requirements.

MPDs are rich with history and can

also be used as reference material for nominations that aren't directly linked to the MPD.



Kam Wah Chung, Grant County

Additional Information:

- State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, Oregon 97301
- Oregon Heritage National Register webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/national-register.aspx>
- National Park Service National Register website: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
- For general information about the National Register of Historic Places, contact Val Ballestrem, Preservation Bureau Assistant: (503) 930-1206 val.ballestrem@oprd.oregon.gov
- National Register Program Staff: Caitlyn Abrahms, National Register Program Coordinator: (503) 201-0454 caitlyn.abrahms@oprd.oregon.gov



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